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MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

15 JANUARY 1985

Lebanon

Israeli Withdrawal Decision — The Israeli Cabinet approved the defense establishment's proposal to begin withdrawing from Lebanon in three main phases, Jerusalem television announced at the end of the Cabinet session on 14 January. In the first phase, which will be implemented within 5 weeks, the IDF will evacuate the Sidon area and deploy in the Al-Litani River-Al-Nabatiyah area. The second withdrawal will be in the eastern sector, where the IDF will deploy around Hasbayya; while in the third phase the IDF will withdraw to the international border, while still providing support for the army of southern Lebanon which will continue to operate in part of the south. Commenting on the decision in a television interview,Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin noted that the withdrawal will enable the IDF to practice a mobile and "aggressive" system of defense in which it will enjoy full freedom to take preemptive action against any attempt by the "terrorists" to reorganize in southern Lebanon. Each stage of the withdrawal will be short enough to preclude any need to fortify the IDF lines and long enough to give Lebanon and Syria a chance to ensure an "orderly arrangement" in the south, Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres asserted in remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio. He also confirmed that Israel would welcome UNIFIL's deployment in the areas evacuated by the IDF. Defense Minister Rabin suggested UNIFIL's deployment in these areas during talks with visiting UN Under Secretary Brian Urquhart, who said he will approach the Security Council to discuss an amendment to UNIFIL's mandate in this regard, according to the radio.

Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, one of six Likud ministers who opposed the Cabinet decision, subsequently told Jerusalem radio that he could not support a withdrawal proposal that was "unbalanced" because of its failure to provide "minimum security arrangements" for Israel's Galilee settlements. Shamir said that he and his colleagues will attempt in forthcoming months to amend the withdrawal arrangements in order to rectify this deficiency.

Security Situation — In Beirut, the Islamic Jihad organization claimed responsibility for killing two French military observers who were ambushed in the southern suburbs, contending that they were spies, Paris radio reported. The Jihad group also warned that it will try the five Americans it is holding as spies who will "get the punishment they deserve," according to AFP.

Iran-Iraq War

The Iraqi Air Force attacked another ship in the Gulf on 14 January, hitting a "large maritime target" near Khark Island, Iraq announced in a military communique broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio. The communique stated that all Iraqi planes returned safely to base, and an Iraqi military spokesman cited by INA subsequently denied an IRNA report that the Iranian Air Force downed an Iraqi plane in a dogfight over the Gulf around the same time. Earlier, Iranian aircraft raided another target inside Iraq, inflicting "considerable casualties" and destroying a radar station in a strike on the Rawanduz barracks in northeastern Iraq, according to an Iranian communique reported by IRNA.

Commenting on the recent intensification of the air war, the Iranian Air Force commander warned that Iran will react firmly to any future Iraqi air attacks on Iranian residential areas, adding that Iran has the capability to bomb "any point" inside Iraq, IRNA reported.

Kuwait

Kuwait has sent military cadres to the Soviet Union for training in the use of SAM-8 missiles, and to Egypt for training with shoulder-fired SAM's, the commander of the Kuwaiti Army's air defenses disclosed in a press interview cited by KUNA.

Western Sahara

A Moroccan Information Ministry communique, cited by Rabat radio, claimed that Saharan troops suffered heavy losses before fleeing in their 12 January attack. The Moroccan communique admitted that an F-1 plane was shot down by a missile launched from a neighboring country. Meanwhile, an SDAR Information Ministry communique stated that two more Moroccan aircraft were shot down on 13 January, according to Algiers radio.

Afghanistan

The DRA issued two strong protests, reported by Kabul radio, against 10 January Pakistani and Iranian "aggressions." The DRA accused Pakistani border militia of shelling Chamkani and Bangash residential areas, and blamed Iran for an airspace violation over Nimroz Province.

Pakistan

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PLO's Qaddumi Interviewed by AL-MAJALLAH

PM141711 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
12-18 Jan 85 pp 14-15

[Interview with Faruq Qaddumi, PLO Political Department head, by Salih Qallab in Sanaa — date not given]

[Text][Qallab] During the PNC session, King Husayn presented an initiative for the settlement of the Palestinian question. What steps has the PLO taken in response to that initiative?

[Qaddumi] We discussed that initiative in the political committee resulting from the PNC and the matter was then referred to the Executive Committee, which in turn formed a special committee from its members to study the initiative, adopt a decision on it, and lay the foundations for an acceptable settlement of the Palestinian question.

[Qallab] You as well as King Husayn have said that no new plans have been submitted for the settlement of the Palestinian question. Why then did King Husayn come up with that initiative of his?

[Qaddumi] We struggle on all military and political fronts. Moves must be made at Arab and international levels to persuade the friendly states to support what we might submit in the future. The world expects us, especially now that the PNC session has been held and the internal crisis resolved, to divulge our views and ideas regarding a just settlement of the Middle East conflict and the Palestinian question.

[Qallab] President Mubarak has frequently urged you to present an initiative and tell the world what you really want. Is that what you are talking about?

[Qaddumi] The Palestinians have repeatedly said what they want. Calling on us to come up with a new initiative is really an old ploy. The Palestinians have emphasized over and over again that they support the Fes initiative approved by all the Arabs. It is common knowledge that the Fes summit conference formed a seven-member committee which paid several visits to the capitals of the big powers, including the permanent members of the UN Security Council. Then there is the Soviet initiative, which was also supported by the PNC at its recent session. We believe that it provides a sound basis for any political settlement which fulfills the minimum legitimate Palestinian rights. If President Mubarak means action he is right, because action is necessary to promote friendly and fraternal feelings for the PLO. Furthermore, as you know, an international conference on the Palestinian question was held in Geneva in 1983. It passed important resolutions which were also approved by the UN General Assembly. We consider these resolutions to be the minimum acceptable basis for any political settlement.

[Qallab] King Husayn's initiative is based on Resolution 242, which the PLO does not accept as a basis for a settlement of the Palestinian question. How then is a common denominator to be found for Palestinian-Jordanian joint moves?

[Qaddumi] The PLO cannot overlook or ignore PNC resolutions. When we say that Resolution 242 does not form a sound basis for a Middle East settlement, we mean that we cannot accept that resolution or consider it a basis for any future settlement. However, there are other UN resolutions on the Palestinian question. They acknowledge the Palestinian people's rights to repatriation, self-determination, and an independent state. These resolutions could form a basis for any future settlement.

I reaffirm that we cannot make any political moves on the basis of Resolution 242 because it ignores our people's national rights and considers our cause to be a refugee problem. We realize that the resolution also stipulates that the seizure of other people's territory by force is inadmissible and calls for Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian and Arab occupied territories. It also says that the refugee problem should be solved.

We believe that these provisions are insufficient because they stem from the assumption that the Palestinian question is merely a border problem between neighboring states, whereas to us it is a question of an occupied homeland. So we repeat that if that resolution meets the requirements of some Arab states, including Jordan, we cannot accept it because it denies our people's rights and constitutes a violation of PNC resolutions.

[Qallab] It has been claimed that the Palestinian-Jordanian rapprochement is nothing more than a move to serve mutual interests, in that King Husayn needs the Palestinian card to strengthen himself in certain situations and the PLO needs an alliance to protect it from certain Arab powers opposed to it.

[Qaddumi] That is not how we view our relations with Jordan. The Jordanian and Palestinian people are joined by a long and common history. This reunion experiment has been proven to be firm and sincere. It is the best Arab experiment in modern times. We are fully convinced that when an independent Palestinian state is born, it will be committed to establishing close relations with Jordan, because Jordan would be its sole outlet. We must never in any circumstances forget that during the 1975 Arab foreign ministers conference in Cairo, Jordan recognized the Palestinian people's acquired rights.

I repeat that there are special relations between the Palestinians and the Jordanians and that Palestinian-Jordanian moves are necessary, but that does not mean that we and Jordan should monopolize efforts. Our moves must be within an Arab framework and on the basis of Arab summit resolutions. What we have in common here are the Fes resolutions. These resolutions concern all the Arab states.

[Qallab] You are saying that joint action necessitates a new Arab summit conference, but it seems that certain parties are pushing in the opposite direction.

[Qaddumi] I believe that an Arab summit conference will be held in the near future, particularly since the PNC question has been resolved. We are trying to bridge the gap between the various views with the aim of convening an Arab summit conference as soon as possible because we need joint Arab action. We admit that alone we cannot convince the world of our political views.

[Qallab] You maintain that there are no settlement plans at present, but King Husayn has recently visited Britain and France

and Italian Prime Minister Craxi has visited Tunisia and met with Abu 'Ammar ['Arafat]. What do you make of these moves?

[Qaddumi] What Craxi has done is a European political move, but it does not mean that there is a specific plan for a political settlement. It is just a trial balloon to find out how ripe the international situation is for a new Middle East settlement plan. I want to tell you here that these moves have produced no results, but that does not mean that we should refrain from any activity. We are compelled to continue to move in the direction of the influential big powers in the international arena.

[Qallab] But Craxi has stated that he found the Palestinians ready for a settlement. What we want to know is: What did Craxi tell you?

[Qaddumi] I do not wish to dwell too long on what Craxi said because he was not acting in an official capacity. What he has done is part of what certain international leaders are doing to explore the international situation as I have said. Again I say that Craxi's move was a trial balloon to explore the international situation.

[Qallab] In whose interest?

[Qaddumi] These are individual intiatives by the persons concerned.

[Qallab] Has King Husayn briefed you on the results of his recent visit to Britain, and are [British Foreign Office Minister of State] Luce's statements an indication of a real change in the British position on the Palestinian question?

[Qaddumi] I have no knowledge of any change for the better in the British position. Some of the statements made contain some positive points. We notice some contradiction between British Government statements and British Foreign Office statements on the Middle East, but we cannot consider that to be a fundamental change in position on the Palestinian question.

[Qallab] I repeat my previous question. Did King Husayn tell you anything on the grounds that you work on a joint basis?

(Qaddumi] So far King Husayn has told us nothing. Furthermore, joint action means that we should be together in any political move, but it is clear that so far each side is moving separately. Despite that, these efforts could be reported to an Arab summit conference for a final decision in this connection.

[Qallab] Over the past 2 years France has shown noticeable interest in the Palestinian question. Do you think that Cheysson's ousting from the Foreign Ministry will affect this interest?

[Qaddumi] There can be no doubt that Cheysson is a principal supporter of Palestinian and Arab causes. Events have proved this, but we must not forget that above all Cheysson serves his country's interests. That is why I think that there will be no change under a different French foreign minister because France has many interests in the Arab region and every French official has to serve these interests.

[Qallab] The PLO's presence in Jordan was supposed to be consolidated after the EEC session because of the importance of the work in the occupied territory. Has anything of that sort happened?

[Qaddumi] The Palestinian presence in Jordan is necessitated by the close Jordanian-Palestinian relations and interest in the West Bank. We look forward to more coordination with our Jordanian brothers and to more presence on Jordanian territory.

(Qallub] New PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih has stated that you have formed a committee which will visit Damascus. What has happened between you and the Syrians in the past months?

[Qaddumi] No such committee has exactly been formed, but, in accordance with PNC resolutions, the Executive Committee has been trying urgently to mend our relations with Damascus. It is making continuous efforts to ease the tension between us and Damascus. We appreciate Syria's position and importance. That is why we give top priority to the improvement of relations with our Syrian brothers.

[Qallab] What you have said does not suggest any new development in this connection.

[Qaddumi] So far there is no new development.

[Qallab] In its latest session the PNC adopted a resolution providing for PLO reform. Does that mean that as head of the political department you will reconsider the PLO's administrative structure?

[Qaddumi] Reform requres ample study. The PNC has formed a committee for that purpose. As soon as the committee completes its studies, the PLO Executive Committee will take the necessary measures.

PNC Official on Ties With USSR, Other Issues

GF131600 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic
12 Jan 85 p 21

[Interview with PNC Deputy Chairman Salim al-Za'nun, alias Abu al-Adib, by the editor of *PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS* — date, place not given]

[Excerpts] Question: Is there any plan to send a Palestinian delegation or delegations to Damascus at this stage?

Answer: Before the PNC meeting, the Soviet comrades told us that they failed to convince Damascus to change its stance toward Yasir 'Arafat and the PLO. Algeria and the PDRY have also informed us of their failure in this regard. We in the PNC have made positive decisions toward Syria which are the same as the decisions adopted at the Algiers session. We know the political and geographical importance of Syria. We hope that we will be ready for what is happening in the arena of Syrian-Palestinian relations. The differences in opinion should not force us to carry weapons against each other. The weapons should be directed at the Zionist enemy.

It hurts us that matters should develop after the PNC in such a way that groups of killers — who are Palestinian citizens — are allowed to assassinate a new member of the PLO Executive Committee. It is not acceptable that some organizations should follow Yasir 'Arafat and Khalid al-Wazir and threaten to kill other people. This is not acceptable to Arab relations and it cannot happen in the 20th century. We do not want a leader, a king, or one who is close to the Syrian regime to act as a mediator to rectify the disruption in Syrian-Palestinian relations.

Question: Who do the resistance security organs blame for the assassinations? Is there any proof available to these organs?

Answer: According to information available to us, since the beginning of November, a camp was formed in Damascus which operates under the command of an official at the Syrian intelligence (he refrained from naming him). This official is putting at the disposal of the joint command Syrian elements experienced in assassination operations in Europe. There are also Abu Nidal and Ahmad Jibril elements. But the Syrian official is the leader. Accordingly, I can say that Syria is responsible for the assassination of Fahd al-Qawasimi.

Question: How far have Palestinian-Soviet relations developed recently?

Answer: We are surprised with the Soviet Union's stand. Sometimes it listens to us and other times it listens to other parties in the Palestinian arena. So it becomes confused and does not know how to act. The Soviet Union has done everything to correct Syrian-Palestinian relations. It continues these efforts and we think that it will succeed. The Soviet Union is exerting efforts to achieve the unity of the PLO as it was before. The Soviet Union has approved the Aden-Algiers agreement. It also approved the convening of the PNC, as long as the main factors were attending the meeting.

But after the visit of President al-Asad to Algeria, a split occurred inside the Democratic Alliance which signed the Aden-Algiers agreement. The Popular Front asked us to hold the PNC meeting after relations with Syria were reformed. Algeria believed that the PNC could be convened in its territory on the condition of full attendance by all the parties which signed the Aden-Algiers agreement. Three days before the convocation of the PNC, the Soviet Union asked us to postpone the PNC in the hope that it could convince the Democratic Alliance to attend at least the PNC sessions.

Stemming from our fraternal relations with the Soviet Union, which are based on the rejection of imposing certain stands on each other, we informed Moscow that we would convene the PNC. The Soviet Union informed us that it was adhering to its reconciliatory role and that it would not send a delegation to the PNC meeting. It will adopt the same stand if the National Alliance decides to hold another PNC in Damascus.

We have accepted this stand of the Soviet Union and most of the socialist countries. We consider the Soviet Union a superpower with obligations, foremost of which is its intention to maintain its relations with us. It cannot do without Syria and its important role in the Middle East region.

After the PNC, Soviet-Palestinian relations improved in light of the success of the PNC meetings and the attendance of two-thirds of its members. Moscow has extended an invitation to the PLO Executive Committee.

There is a delegation visiting Moscow now which includes Brother Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin, and Muhammad 'Abbas, alias Abu al-'Abbas, newly elected members of the PNC. We hope that our relations will develop further.

Al-Hasan Announces Fatah Central Committee Meeting

JN141926 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Text] Brother Hani al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member, announced that the Committee will hold a meeting next week to study the outcome of the talks that Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], PLO Political Department head, held with Jordanian officials recently on Palestinian-Jordanian coordination.

In a statement to the Saudi paper *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* published yesterday, Brother Hani al-Hasan said that this meeting comes within a series of meetings that the PLO is holding in the Tunisian capital to study a number of political issues, foremost being the issue of assassinations against several Palestinian officials, the smuggling of Ethiopian Jews into occupied Palestine, and Palestinian-Arab relations.

PNC Speaker Leaves Amman for Tunis 14 Jan

JN150853 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 15 Jan 85 p 1

[Text] Amman — PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih left Amman yesterday for Tunis to join PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf on their visit to Algeria.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih will inform the Algerian National People's Assembly speaker of the results of the 17th PNC session that was held in Amman and discuss coordination and cooperation at international parliamentary conferences with him.

Resistance Men Explode Bomb in Marj 'Uyun

JN121837 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 12 Jan 85

[Text] Palestinian and Lebanese resistance men set off a high-explosive charge under the vehicle of a Zionist military patrol on a main road near Marj 'Uyun in occupied southern Lebanon yesterday.

The explosion destroyed the vehicle and killed or wounded all members of the Zionist patrol.

The Zionist spokesman admitted this heroic operation, but, as usual, did not disclose his losses. He said his forces surrounded the area and began a large-scale search campaign for the resistance men, who in fact returned safely to base.

Two Operations Against Israeli Troops Reported

JN142013 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 14 JAN 85

[Text] Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist resistance men attacked a Zionist military position at the northern entrance of the town of Al-Nabatiyah in occupied southern Lebanon with automatic weapons and rockets yesterday. The attack resulted in the killing or wounding of several Zionist soldiers.

Another resistance group attacked a Zionist military patrol yesterday in the town of Al-Nabatiyah in occupied southern Lebanon. The attack was launched with automatic weapons and rockets and resulted in destroying a military halftrack, damaging another one, and killing or wounding their occupants.

A Zionist military spokesman admitted the two operations, but, as usual, declined to mention losses. He said his forces immediately imposed a complete cordon around Al-Nabatiyah, launched a large-scale search campaign, and arrested a large number of Palestinian and Lebanese citizens under the pretext of connections with the resistance men, who safely returned to base.

Arabsat Station Begins Experimental Operation

JN121344 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 12 Jan 85 p 1

[Text] Amman, *AL-DUSTUR* -- The Telecommunications Corporation has received the ground station for Arabsat communications.

The corporation's sources said that with the assistance of the company that established the station, it has begun experimental operation of the station in preparation for official operation in March. Arabsat will have been launched by then. Arabsat will serve communications and information exchange among Arab League countries.

Arab Fund Head, GDR Minister Discuss Cooperation

LD131454 Kuwait KUNA in English 1247 GMT 13 Jan 85

[Text] Kuwait, JAN 13 (KUNA) -- Construction Industry Minister in the German Democratic republic Wolfgang Junker was received Sunday by Chairman of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development Dr. Mohammad al-'Imadi.

A spokesman for the fund said the two officials discussed avenues of cooperation in Arab development projects to be carried out in the near future.

Among projects which the East German delegation expressed readiness to implement are agricultural projects in the Democratic Republic of Yemen, electricity project in Sudan, iron foundry plant in Tunisia and a tourism project in Syria.

The GDR team conveyed its government's desire to participate in the reconstruction of Lebanon, said the spokesman, but after the political and economic situation settles down.

Al-'Imadi and Junker agreed to form a joint technical team to study the feasibility of GDR's participation in a number of those and other Arab development projects.

The team will hold meetings before the delegation's departure Tuesday [15 January].

Briefs

Indian Envoy to PLO— Tunis, 11 Jan (TAP) -- Lakshmi Narasimhan Rangarajan, Indian ambassador to Tunisia, presented his credentials to Yasir 'Arafat on Thursday as India's ambassador to the PLO. [Summary] [*Tunis TAP in French 1300 GMT 11 Jan 85 LD*]

Kuwaiti Oil Minister Comments on Oil Price Policy in Tokyo
LD111732 Kuwait KUNA in English 1259 GMT 11 Jan 85

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 11 (KUNA) — Sheikh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Sabah, Kuwait's minister of oil and finance said that an oil output monitoring organ on which the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) agreed during last month's meeting represents an advance in the right direction.

Speaking to reporters here Friday, Sheikh 'Ali said "what we should be concerned with is really the average of all the crudes."

Asked about the weighted average price, being a new idea, Al-Khalifah said: "Yes, it is to a certain degree, as it is designed really to give flexibility to manage the trend of changes more flexibly for that affecting the overall level of prices."

Replying to a question on putting forward this particular idea to the OPEC's forthcoming meeting, he said "I am not attached to it. Someone could come up with a better idea. This has always been a discussion within OPEC for a long time, that you cannot concentrate only on one crude. Doing so, you lose degrees offreedom and flexibility in pricing the whole bunch of crude together."

He went on to say: Flexibility here is meant for correcting differential.

Asked if correcting the differential would be reflecting the spot market, Sheikh 'Ali said the spot market is one indicator. Anyone would tell you the spot market exaggerates the trends in one direction or the other. The spot market may make the difference between too wide or too narrow yield analysis and crude has qualities other than yield which are just as important.

Let us not confuse two issues, the problem of differential and that of the price level. The differential is one issue which can be handled by having all crudes move in various directions.

The price level is a completely different issue which can be guaranteed, he stressed, adding "we are now dealing with the problem of differential, not the question of price. There is an agreement of prserving the price."

Sheikh 'Ali earlier was received by Crown Price Akihito and later met with Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone.

The Kuwaiti minister, who arrived Tuesday from a visit to China is leaving here Saturday on a visit to South Korea.

KUWAIT

Joint Naval Exercises With Qatar Begin 13 Jan

LD141526 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1233 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 14 Jan (KUNA) — It was reported here today that units from the Kuwaiti and Qatari naval forces yesterday began joint exercises within the framework of military coordination among the armed forces of the countries of the GCC in all spheres.

Four striking Kuwaiti missile boats, *Al-Sumbuk*, *Istiqlal*, *Al-Batil*, and *Al-Sa'di*, have arrived in Dawhah for this purpose.

Informed military sources have told KUNA that the joint Kuwaiti-Qatari exercises "seek to strengthen the fighting capabilities of the two naval forces in a coordinated manner."

The sources have not given further details.

Prime Minister Sees GDR's Junker; Documents Signed

LD142158 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1027 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Text] Kuwait, 14 Jan (ADN) In view of the deterioration of the international climate it is necessary to strengthen political dialogue and constructive cooperation for the preservation and securing of peace and to return to reason in international relations. This was agreed on by both GDR Construction Minister Wolfgang Junker and Heir Apparent and Prime Minister of Kuwait Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, during a friendly talk in Kuwait today.

Wolfgang Junker explained the policy of the GDR aimed at preventing a nuclear catastrophe and strengthening international security. The two sides agreed that in view of the continuing explosive situation in the Near and Middle East, a comprehensive, just, and lasting solution must be found and the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people must be guaranteed.

They emphasized their support for the PLO and spoke in support of ending as quickly as possible the war between Iran and Iraq through a political solution.

Both sides expressed their satisfaction that relations between the two states have developed steadily. In their talks they emphasized the need for further development of joint cooperation.

Also today, Wolfgang Junker met with Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn, and with Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of Housing Hamad 'Isa al-Rujayb.

In addition, an agreement on air traffic and a protocol on cooperation in the field of health for the period 1985-86 was signed between the GDR and the State of Kuwait.

Radio, TV Protocol Signed With USSR 14 Jan

LD141757 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Excerpts] A protocol on exchanges in the spheres of television and radio was signed today between the Ministry of Information and the USSR State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting for the years 1985-86.

The protocol provides for the exchange of television and radio broadcasting material concerning national holidays and other important occasions in the life of the peoples of the two countries. The two sides are to exchange television information, drama programs, simplified scientific films, musical and sports programs, and radio programs and news material covering the political, economic, social, cultural and sporting activities of the peoples of the two countries.

Daily Interviews Finland's Vayrynen Prior to Visit

LD131152 Kuwait KUNA in English 0828 GMT 13 Jan 85

[Text] Kuwait, 13 Jan (KUNA) — The Finnish minister of foreign affairs, Paavo Vayrynen will arrive in here this evening on an official visit to Kuwait, preceding a tour of a number of African countries. The Finnish minister will be accompanied during his 3-day visit by a delegation of Finnish businessmen who will have talks with senior Kuwaiti officials on bilateral relations.

The Finnish minister, at the end of his visit, will begin a tour of three African countries: Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-SIYASAH* held in Helsinki and published today, the Finnish minister expressed his belief that no country outside the Gulf region can impose its initiatives aimed at finding a solution to the Iraq-Iran conflict, mow entering its 5th year.

Concerning his country's position towards this war, the Finnish minister of foreign affairs said his country has adopted a neutral stand on the Iran-Iraq war, as it maintains good relations with both sides. He stressed that "it will continue to follow this political line which will lead to preserving the trust of both sides."

He added that his country participated in the international investigation committee sent by the UN to the region to examine this war and to try search for peaceful solutions. He stressed that his country welcomes all proposals and initiatives which might contribute to resolving the conflict in the Arab Gulf region, and that the only way to peace "is through negotiations and concessions by both concerned parties."

He stressed that the UN has a major role to perform in putting an end to the war between the two countries. He said that the Middle East issue has attracted the attention of the UN during the past 37 years, but the basic issues are still unsettled. He expressed his hopes that the peace operations in the Middle East will show progress in the near future.

Commenting on the issue of the recent American-Soviet talks, he pointed out it is "too early" to say that the world is moving

towards a new era of international detente. The Finnish minister added: Although we welcome the resumption of direct dialogue between the two sides, which merits satisfaction and encouragement, "the coming negotiations will be difficult and complex, and cannot be expected to lead to encouraging results in a short time." But he said: We cannot see any alternative to limiting the production of arms and initiating disarmament as a reasonable option for protecting and guaranteeing the future of the human race during the nuclear age in which we live.

The foreign ministers of the United States and the Soviet Union have ended joint talks which covered some of the issues of nuclear and strategic armaments. After the talks they agreed on the need to resume these talks at a later date following their suspension for about 11 months.

Sources 'Apprehensive' About Shultz-Gromyko Talks

GF111735 Doha QNA in Arabic 0930 GMT 11 Jan 85

[Text] Kuwait, 11 Jan (QNA) — Kuwaiti political sources have expressed their apprehension at the results of the talks held between Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko and his U.S. counterpart, George Shultz, in Geneva recently.

In a statement carried today by the Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-QABAS*, these sources pointed out that the current aggravation of the international situation can no longer stand further intensification. These sources predicted that the U.S.-Soviet rapprochement, if it ever takes place, will have a positive effect on the Middle East issue, particularly on Lebanese and Palestinian issues. These sources did not rule out that the U.S.-Soviet rapprochement might be the catalyst to promote the efforts needed to halt the Iraqi-Iranian war.

The sources said in conclusion that Kuwait envisages a unified international stand on the need to end the Iraqi-Iranian war as themeans to force Iran to respond positively to all mediations and efforts exerted to end the war and begin negotiations.

AL-QABAS Reports Amendments to Reagan Plan

GF131035 Doha QNA in Arabic 0910 GMT 13 Jan 85

[Text] Kuwait, 13 Jan (QNA) — According to today's press reports in Kuwait, the U.S. Administration is preparing to announce amendments to President Reagan's initiative on the Middle East.

The amendments will deal mainly with the Palestinian issue as an issue of a people and not of refugees.

Quoting Arab diplomatic sources, the newspaper *AL-QABAS* said that the current visit of Joseph Sisco, former under secretary of state, and the forthcoming visit of George Shultz, U.S. secretary of state, to a number of Arab countries and Israel, are aimed at discussing the details of the amendment to the Reagan initiative with the parties concerned with the crisis.

The paper said that Shultz' upcoming tour will include Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Egypt, Syria and Israel.

AL-QABAS Investigates Company 'Fraud'

GF141440 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 13 Jan 85 pp 1, 4, 5

[Excerpt] In an investigation lasting over 2 months, *AL-QABAS* has obtained documents which raise a number of questions about the Road Research Center operating under the auspices of the Ministry of Public Works. The research center has been run since 1976 by a U.S. company owned by Dr Hani Jurjus, a consultant at the Ministry of Public Works. Documents show that the ministry pays the center's 27 employees 68,000 dinars monthly. However, the consultant transfers only 20,000 dinars to the employees' accounts in various banks. Nobody knows where the other 48,000 dinars goes. It has become clear that the U.S. company does not have an office in Kuwait, despite the stipulation to the contrary by the ministry. The investigation has also revealed that the company has not been registered with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and has no branches anywhere else in the world.

OMAN

Jordan's King Husayn Arrives for Visit

GF141606 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1350 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Muscat, 14 Jan (WAKH) — King Husayn of Jordan and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Muscat today on a visit to Oman within his current tour of the region. He was received by Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, sultan of Oman; Fahar ibn Taymur Al Bu Sa'id, deputy prime minister for security and defense affairs; Fahd ibn Mahmud Al Bu Sa'id, deputy prime minister for legal affairs; and civilian and military Omani officials.

Talks Begin in Muscat

GF150905 Doha QNA in Arabic 0720 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Text] Muscat, 15 Jan (QNA) — The official talks between His Majesty Sultan Qabus of Oman and His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan began today at Al-'Alam Palace in Muscat. It has been learned that the discussions focused on bilateral relations, means of cementing them in various fields, and coordination in various areas. The talks also included a comprehensive review of the current Arab situation and methods to achieve unity and to heal the rift in Arab relations in order to hold the Arab summit conference. The latest developments in the Iraqi-Iranian war and the means to halt it were also discussed. His Majesty King Husayn arrived in Muscat on Monday coming from Doha on a visit to the Sultanate of Oman within his current tour of the Gulf region.

Sultan Qabus Receives British Member of Parliament

GF141710 Salalah Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id received in Al-Sid Palace this afternoon Mr Antony Nelson, member of the British Parliament, who is currently visiting the country.

Deputy Prime Minister Receives U.S. Navy Chief

GF121528 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Jan 85

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Fahar ibn Taymur, deputy prime minister for security and defense affairs, received at his office in Al-Falaj this morning Admiral James D. Watkins, chief of U.S. naval operations, and his accompanying military delegation. During the meeting, bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest were discussed.

The meeting was attended by His Excellency the U.S. ambassador to the Sultanate. It was also attended on the Omani side by the chief of staff and commander of the Sultan's naval forces, General Muhammad ibn Sa'id al-Ruqayshi, and Staff General Malallah Rustum al-Sadiqi from the office of His Highness Shaykh Fahar ibn Taymur.

QATAR

Jordan's King Husayn Arrives, Holds Talks

GF141200 Doha Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Excerpts] The amir, His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, received his brother His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal of the fraternal Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the accompanying delegation upon their arrival at Doha International Airport today. King Husayn, who was coming from Bahrain, will pay a brief visit to the state of Qatar.

The official talks between the amir, His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, and his brother, His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal of the fraternal Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, were held at the guest palace at 1230 [0930 GMT]. The talks focused on the current and future situation in the Gulf and the Arab arenas. International developments in general were discussed. The two Arab leaders also discussed efforts aimed at clearing the Arab atmosphere and restoring Arab solidarity, the sharpest weapon to confront the challenges facing the Middle East. The Palestinian issue was also discussed.

QNA has learned that his highness the amir briefed the grand guest on Qatar's absolute support for any effort designed to restore unity in the Arab ranks to serve just Arab issues on all levels. QNA added that the talks illustrated the joint desire to revive collective Arab action with the aim of attaining the supreme goals and interests of the Arab nation.

QNA has also learned that the Jordanian monarch briefed his highness the amir on the results of his tour of the region and on the talks he held with their leaders. These talks concentrated primarily on creating a suitable atmosphere for the convocation of an Arab summit.

The Qatari-Jordanian talks also dealt with fraternal bilateral relations and ways of further promoting cooperation between the two countries and peoples to their mutual benefit in various fields.

Riyadh on Sisco's Remarks on Arab-Israeli Conflict

LD142334 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Commentary by Husayn al-Askari]

[Text] Joseph Sisco, former U.S. assistant secretary of state, said conditions are unfavorable for a new American initiative on the Arab-Israeli conflict. The current visit by Sisco to some Arab countries is essentially focused on discussing different points of view on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Thus, it is impossible to belittle the importance of such contacts, although the do not have an immediate effective influence in view of the circumstances and the variable factors which surround, and continue to surround, the American role in the issue. From the premise of the U.S. Administration's refusal to deal with the core of the problem — the Palestinian people and their legitimate representative, the PLO — the statement by Mr Sisco that conditions are unfavorable for a new American initiative is not surprising, because the U.S. Administration has expressed the opinion that UN Security Council Resolution No 242 should be implemented. As is known, this resolution does not recognize the rights of the Palestinian people; rather it considers the Palestine problem one of refugees. Such a consideration denies the existence of a people calling for the recovery of their rights.

A basic problem comes to the forefront here: The essence of the problem is the Palestinian people. Without taking this into consideration no solution is possible. This the main reason for the failure of any attempt which ignores the right of the Palestinian people, a right recognized by the majority of the international community and for whose implementation this majority works on the basis of a desire to reach a just and lasting solution to the problem. Some circles are trying to distort the nature of this problem and to exclude its basic element in an effort to instill the spirit of despair in the souls of the Palestinians and consequently, force them to consider undesirable choices.

In view of these attempts, a just and lasting solution remains unattainable, despite all attempts being made. These attempts have not succeeded because they do not take into consideration essential matters, matters of which they are aware, but simply ignore.

UAE

AL-KHALIJ on U.S. Disregard of Mideast Issues

GF111136 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0720 GMT 11 Jan 85

[From the press review]

[Text] Al-Shariqah, 11 Jan (WAM) — The newspaper *AL-KHALIJ* emphasized in its editorial today that the world will not heed the Arab countries and their causes "unless we threaten its interests since it disregards our interests. U.S. President Reagan will not see anything in the Middle East except the Jews of the Soviet Union as long as we turn to the White House whenever a new disaster afflicts us."

The paper commented on the U.S. President's disregard of the Middle East issues in his press conference yesterday in which he called 1985 the year of talks with the USSR, and also his earlier disregard of these issues during the meeting between the U.S. secretary of state and the USSR foreign minister.

The paper referred to the Zionist enemy's foreign minister's threat to the USSR that the success of its nuclear arms reduction talks with Washington is tied to its lifting of restrictions on the emigration of Soviet Jews. The paper emphasized that this threat came after it was learned that a member of the U.S. delegation accompanying Shultz to Geneva for his talks with Gromyko left for Israel to apprise Israeli officials of the results.

The paper said that of all Middle East issues, the United States chose what its ally requested, namely, bargaining with Moscow on the question of Soviet Jews and tying their fate to the space war, nuclear arms reduction, and easing tension in Europe.

Finance Minister Explains Banks Merger
GF120625 Manama WAKH in English 1515 GMT 11 Jan 85

[Text] Dubayy, 11 Jan (WAKH) — The UAE minister of state for financial and industrial affairs, Ahmad Hamid al-Ta'ir, said that a decision by the Union Bank of the Middle East [UBME] to buy all the shares of the Emirates National Bank [ENB] came within the directives of the Dubai Government to support the banking sector and strengthen the national banks position.

Al-Ta'ir told WAM that the UAE Central Bank and the Government of Dubai extended facilities valued at 1,300 million dirhams to support the UBME before the Dubai Government acquired 73 per cent of its shares. He said that the government's move was aimed at supporting the UBME and preserving the reputation and position of the banking system in the UAE, in addition to keeping the interests of the banks dealers and customers. He said that as a result of this move the bank became in a position that allowed it to take any measures to expand its banking activities and investment operations.

The minister said the government was hoping that the UBME move, which is the first of its kind in the UAE, would be an encouragement to similar operations between national banks in the country to create strong national banking units that would be able to limit the unhealthy competition among banks.

He said that the merger policy could be achieved through two ways, either by fully merging the assets and liabilities of more than one bank and creating a new bank or by purchasing the entire shares of shareholders by a strong bank, as was the case with the UBME and ENB.

Al-Tayir described the purchase of the Emirates National Bank by the UBME as a fair deal which came following an evaluation of the banks assets and liabilities.

PDRY

Junblatt, Lebanese Delegation Arrive 14 Jan
GF142020 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Text] At the invitation of the YSP Central Committee the Lebanese National Democratic Front delegation led by Brother Walid Junblatt, chairman of the Front, and chairman of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party, arrived in Aden this evening on a visit to the PDRY.

In statement to ANA, Brother Junblatt said that during the visit he will hold talks with brothers at the YSP on Arab and international issues. He reiterated the necessity of the unconditioned and total withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon. He said that the Lebanese Army has been deployed on part of the coastal road. It is expected to enter the southern region in spite of the presence of the forces of the agent Antonie Lahd, Israel, and the Phlangist forces which are still controlling some positions.

Brother Walid Junblatt is accompanied by Brother 'Asim Qansu, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in Lebanon.

The delegation was received at the airport by Brother 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Qadir, member of the YSP Political Bureau and secretary of the YSP Central Committee; Brother 'Abd al-Hamid Ahmad Sa'id, member of YSP Central Committee and deputy secretary of the YSP Central Committee; and a number of officials from the Secretariat of the YSP Central Committee.

YAR

PNC Deputy Chairman Arrives for Talks
GF141816 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Text] Brother Salim al-Za'nun, alias Abu al-Adib, member of the Fatah Central Committee and PNC deputy chairman, arrived in Sanaa this afternoon on a visit to last several days. During his visit he will hold talks with number of brother members of the People's Constituent Council.

In statement to SABA' NEWS AGENCY, Brother al-Za'nun said that he will exchange views with brothers of the parliamentary department at the People's Constituent Council on means of bringing about success to the upcoming meeting of the council of the Arab Parliamentary Union scheduled to convene in Aden next month. He said that the current weak and divided situation in the Arab nation demands the coordination of the stands of the Arab parliamentary departments toward the various fateful issues of the Arab nation.

He was received at the airport by Brother Yusuf al-Ash'ari, deputy chairman of the People's Constituent Council and member of the Standing Committee; a number of brother members of the People's Council; and Brother Hikmat Zayd, PLO representative in Sanaa.

AL-AHRAM Previews Mubarak's Visit to Greece

NC150750 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0633 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Excerpts] Cairo, 15 Jan (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak and his wife will arrive in Athens on Wednesday. This is the first official visit by an Egyptian president to Greece in 27 years. President Mubarak will be met at the airport by Greek President Konstandinos Karamanlis and Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou.

AL-AHRAM reports today that the official discussions, which President Mubarak will hold during his 2-day visit, will deal with the current international conditions, including the Middle East problem, both its Palestinian and Lebanese aspects, as well as the Gulf war.

AL-AHRAM adds that a ceremonious reception will be accorded to President Mubarak in Athens. Greek Air Force planes will take part in the reception and the artillery will fire 21 salvos when the president arrives at the airport. This is a tradition that will be reinstituted for the first time since the seventies as an expression of the special significance of this visit. As a special sign of appreciation for President Mubarak, Greece has set the special palace used by Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou as the place for the residence of President Mubarak during his visit to Athens. This is a gesture that has not been accorded to previous visitors other than Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu.

The president will be accompanied by a delegation consisting of Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid; Insurance and Social Affairs Minister Dr Amal 'Uthman; Planning and International Cooperation Minister Dr Kamal al-Janzuri; and Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the president's office for political affairs.

VOL: Soviet Defense Minister Reportedly To Visit Cairo

NC151147 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Text] Reports from Cairo say that Soviet Defense Minister Sergey Sokolov will visit Cairo at the end of this month for talks with high-ranking Egyptian officials on defense issues. It has been learned that these officials will ask Sokolov to resume Soviet military aid to Egypt.

Al-Baz Receives Soviet Ambassador in Cairo 14 Jan

NC141414 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1355 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jan (MENA) — Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the presidential office for political affairs, today received Soviet Ambassador in Cairo Aleksandr Belonogov.

AL-AKHBAR Welcomes U.S., Soviet Talks on Mideast

NC140730 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2305 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jan (MENA) — Commenting on reports that — during the recent meeting in Geneva between U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko — the U.S. side agreed to hold discussions with the Soviet Union on the Middle East conflict, the newspaper *AL-AKHBAR* welcomes putting the Middle East issue on the negotiating table between the United States and the Soviet Union as a propitious start for solving this chronic issue.

In Tuesday's commentary, the paper says that if these reports are true, we are encouraged that there is a greater possibility of activating the Middle East peace process. Despite the fact that there is more than one initiative for resolving the issue, the situation is at a standstill because there is no plan that has the approval of both Moscow and Washington. As proof of this, the paper points to the rejection by the United States and Israel of the recent call made by King Husayn of Jordan for convening an international conference on the Middle East, only because the Soviet Union would attend such a conference.

The paper emphasizes that Israel, which basically survives on U.S. aid and regards Washington as its only recourse for solving its private problems, cannot tenaciously reject any U.S. proposal if Washington exerts some pressure on it — something that no U.S. President since the late President John Kennedy has done.

The paper concludes its commentary by affirming that Egypt, which has declared and emphasized that peace is its firm strategy, has accepted the idea of convening an international conference for peace because Egypt seeks the establishment of peace and stability in the area and the restoration of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, irrespective of whether the solution comes through a U.S. or Soviet initiative.

AL-JUMHURIYAH Says Tabah Not To Be Abandoned

NC150804 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 15 Jan 85

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline: "Tabah, Peace, and Israel," *AL-JUMHURIYAH* emphasizes the fact that no citizen can abandon one inch of his homeland's soil. The soil of the homeland is not for bargaining and naturally does not tolerate compromises. Thus, Egypt's adherence to the Egyptian soil of Tabah is not just a bargaining position or stance for political compromises because the matter here is not one of flexible or inflexible stances but that of the homeland's entity.

In this context, the paper points out that President Husni Mubarak explained Egypt's stance on this issue when he affirmed that there are no compromises or concessions regarding Arab land. Thus, Egypt's acceptance of the principle of negotiations does not mean acceptance of the principle of compromise.

The paper explains: When Egypt agrees to negotiate it does so on the basis of its serious desire for peace and for peacefully resolving pending problems through sitting at the negotiating table to discuss the problems with the other sides concerned and to resolve them on the basis of rights, justice, and historical documents.

The paper draws attention to the fact that the question of Tabah is another touchstone for knowing the reality of Israeli intentions on the peace process in the area. Indeed, it is the most definite test of these intentions because the matter here pertains to a very clear issue which does not require any discussion; twice in the past Israel has withdrawn from the area without raising what it is trying to raise now.

In conclusion, *AL-JUMHURIYAH* explains that Israel must understand that the citizens cannot abandon one inch of their homelands' soil.

Ghali Gives Interview on Middle East Issues in Paris

JN112040 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1910 GMT 11 Jan 85

[Interview with Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, by Antone Nawfal, Radio Monte Carlo news director, carried within the "It Happened Tomorrow" program; in Paris; date not given — recorded]

[Text] [Antoine Nawfal] Dr Butrus Ghali, allow me to start with the traditional question about your visit to Paris. What is its purpose?

[Butrus Ghali] The purpose was to hold contacts with the French Ministry of External Relations, particularly with Roland Dumas, external relations minister, and Christian Nucci, minister delegate to the Ministry of External Relations in charge of cooperation and development, with whom we will hold consultations. France and Egypt continue to hold consultations on various topics, on issues dealing with bilateral relations, Middle East developments, and African issues.

[Nawfal] Is this visit directly related to your African tour to begin the next few days?

[Ghali] My visit is not directly related to my tour of Africa. My forthcoming tour of Africa, whether my visit to Mali, the Ivory Coast, or to Senegal, comes within the framework of bilateral relations between Egypt and each of these countries and Egypt's relations with these countries within the OAU framework.

[Nawfal] A journalist always tries to link political moves. Does this visit have anything to do with President Husni Mubarak's forthcoming visit to Washington?

[Ghali] There is no doubt that President Mubarak's visit to Washington is aimed at defending the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. My contacts with the French External Relations Ministry and African ministries also seek to defend the Palestinian people's rights. Egyptian diplomacy seeks to answer the following: How can we promote the Palestinian cause? How can we defend the Palestinian people's legitimate rights? How can we help the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza Strip? These are some of the objectives of Egyptian diplomacy because no lasting peace can be attained in the Middle East without the attainment of the Palestinian people's rights. The objective of Egyptian diplomacy is to achieve a lasting and just peace in the Middle East.

[Nawfal] President Mubarak's visit to Washington apparently will take place after King Fahd's visit to the United States. What concepts will Egypt submit to the U.S. side? Will Egypt's proposals be in agreement with Jordan and the Palestinian side?

[Ghali] President Husni Mubarak's visit to Washington will, first of all, deal with bilateral relations and protection of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

[Nawfal] There is much talk about a tripartite summit among President Mubarak, King Husayn, and Yasir 'Arafat. What is the intention? Will it take place to bring Palestinian and Jordanian views closer? Can a summit at such a level be convened without any prior agreement on basic guidelines?

[Ghali] I have no information about what this summit will discuss. The only thing I can say is that intensive contacts exist between Egypt and both Jordan and the PLO. The purpose of these contacts is to formulate a broader common denominator that would allow us to move in the region and defend the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

[Nawfal] In your opinion, can we regard Yasir 'Arafat as ready to accept permanently King Husayn's initiative, which is based on resolution 242?

[Ghali] This question must be posed to brother leader Yasir 'Arafat. However, I believe that more contacts must be held among all the parties concerned to seek urgent solutions. We must differentiate between urgent solutions and solutions that can be attained later with respect to the cause so that we can reach agreement and formulate a joint stand. The Palestinian people's state of affairs is deteriorating in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. We must agree on a method to confront this deterioration.

[Nawfal] How do you now view Reagan's plan?

[Ghali] Egypt's stand has not changed. We supported this plan when it was made because we support U.S. moves in the region. However, we have some reservations on this plan.

[Nawfal] Let me put my question this way: Is there any intention in President Reagan's plan, in your opinion, to accept the Palestinians?

[Ghali] My opinion is that we should look for a means to find a greater common denominator among all the proposed plans, whether President Reagan's plan, the Fes plan, the French-Egyptian plan which is still on the UN Security Council's agenda, or any other plan. If we could find this greater common denominator, we would be able to move within its framework.

[Nawfal] Is there any intention to reactivate the French- Egyptian plan?

[Ghali] We should get the approval of the big powers, because there will be no need to discuss this plan in the Security Council if any of the big powers uses the veto. The objective is not to make diplomatic maneuvers in the Security Council, but to issue a resolution. If we can guarantee the approval of the big powers,

or at least guarantee that the big powers will not use the veto, then we will undoubtedly ask the Security Council to discuss this plan. However, if any of the big powers say that it would use the veto to prevent the issuance of a resolution, then it would be better to postpone this and wait for the proper time. The plan itself is a positive step and undoubtedly, if the Security Council can approve this plan, it will help defend the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and support the Palestinian stand in future negotiations, whether these negotiations take place within the framework of the Reagan plan, the Fes plan, or any other framework.

[Nawfal] A surprise meeting took place between King Husayn and President Mubarak in Aqaba recently. Some news media said that one of the major reasons for it was that the Egyptian president informed the Jordanian monarch of a terrorist plan against Jordan, the PLO, and Egypt. How true are these reports?

[Ghali] I have no information about this subject. I can say that there are continuous contacts between the Jordanian king and the Egyptian president. This contact on the summit level is within the framework of coordination between both countries' policies.

[Nawfal] Arab-Egyptian relations are still the subject of the hour. Where do these relations stand following the Jordanian-Egyptian rapprochment, and does Egypt have a stronger desire than before to restore diplomatic relations with all the Arab states?

[Ghali] Egypt does not want to embarrass any Arab state. Egypt's relations with most of the Arab states are excellent. There are thousands of Egyptian experts working in the Arab states, thousands of Arab students studying in Egyptian institutes, schools, and universities, and there is Arab capital in Egypt; so, relations are strong. What remains are relations on the diplomatic and ambassadorial level.

If the Arab states decide to send ambassadors to Egypt, we welcome this, and if they want to postpone this, we also have no objection to this. The one real point in relations is that popular relations are more important than official relations on the ambassadorial level, especially since there are Egyptian and Arab diplomatic missions in most of the Arab capitals and Cairo.

[Nawfal] Dr Ghali, do you believe in the possibility of the restoration of diplomatic relations without an Arab summit?

[Ghali] The proof is that Egyptian-Jordanian relations were restored without an Arab summit. We also believe that Arab-Egyptian relations can be restored without an Arab summit.

[Nawfal] Can we put Iraq at the head of these states? Some say that Arab relations with Egypt were severed at the Baghdad summit and that if the side that called for the Baghdad summit, Iraq, were to restore relations with Egypt this would be sufficient to restore diplomatic relations among all the Arab states and Egypt.

[Ghali] If this interpretation is true, then we welcome the restoration of the relations between Egypt and Iraq.

[Nawfal] Arab-Egyptian relations are one thing and Israeli-Egyptian relations another. Where does the Tabah issue stand and will the military talks be resumed soon in this regard?

[Ghali] These are not military talks; they are diplomatic talks. An agreement was made on 25 April 1982 on the presence of a multinational force in Tabah and on the need to agree on the importance of forming an arbitration committee and a reconciliation committee to settle differences on borders. However, the Israeli side has not so far allowed the presence of the multinational force in Tabah, and no agreement has so far been made regarding the formation of an arbitration committee to mediate the border conflict between the two states. We call on the Israeli side to allow the presence of the multinational force in Tabah, and we also call on the Israeli side to form the arbitration staff that is entrusted with a peaceful settlement of these differences. Of course, there is another difference: The Israeli side proposes a reconciliation committee, and the Egyptian side proposes an arbitration committee.

The difference between reconciliation and arbitration is that the reconciliation committee's decision is not binding while the arbitration committee's decision is. The Israeli side says we should start with reconciliation and, if we do not agree with the reconciliation committee's decision, we will move on to the arbitration committee. The Egyptian side regards this a waste of time and believes that we should immediately start with the arbitration committee, particularly since the aribtration committee's decision is binding on both sides.

[Nawfal] Such negotiations are undoubtedly difficult. However, there are other negotiations that are just as difficult — the negotiations on southern Lebanon. Israel is facing the issue of unilaterally withdrawing from Lebanon. How do you view this method of withdrawal?

[Ghali] We adhere to Security Council Resolutions 607 and 608 that demand the Israeli forces' withdrawal from Lebanon and do not mention any other presence. We believe the Israeli forces' withdrawal from Lebanon will help in settling the Lebanese issue. This is the Egyptian stand. Moreover, we support the legitimate government and are committed to Lebanon's territorial unity and political independence. This has been Egypt's stand since 1944 through what is called the Alexandria protocol before the 22 March 1945 charter. The Egyptian stand is firm. We believe that Lebanon's independence, territorial unity, and national reconciliation are principal bases for this region's stability and peace.

[Nawfal] Dr Ghali, Israel is calling on King Husayn to negotiate on the one hand, and on the other it is making decisions to establish six new settlements in the West Bank. What is there to negotiate?

[Ghali] I agree. We cannot negotiate with the Israeli side until Israel stops establishing settlements. This is part of the measures to build trust. We called for halting the settlements on 13 October, 1978. Egypt has remained committed to this demand since that date. We also sent a memorandum to Sol Linowitz, personal envoy of President Carter, on 13 October 1980. This Egyptian stand will not change. If we wish to start negotiations

with the Israeli side, and if we want these negotiations to produce positive results and help establish peace in the region, then Israel must stop building new settlements. There is a fundamental difference between negotiations for peace on the one hand and building settlements on the other. There is also the issue of demolishing the houses of the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza. Therefore, the establishment of settlements must stop so that we can start negotiations with the Israeli side.

[Nawfal] Does this state of affairs prompt you and other parties concerned to start the negotiations as soon as possible and before it is too late?

[Ghali] Undoubtedly. As I said at the beginning, the Palestinian situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is deteriorating. We must endeavor to stop this deterioration. The first move to stop this deterioration is to halt the establishment of settlements.

[Nawfal] Dr Ghali, there are currently encouraging signs to some extent between East and West on the basis of the Shultz-Gromyko meeting. How do you view the reflection of this new atmosphere on the affairs that concern Egypt and the Middle East?

[Ghali] If the two superpowers reach some form of truce in the Middle East, or if the two countries reach agreement on a joint policy on the Middle East crisis, then undoubtedly such an agreement will help achieve a peaceful settlement to this crisis. However, Arab diplomatic moves must not stop until such agreement is achieved. We must move. If this agreement is reached between the two giants, then we will welcome it. However, if such agreement is not attained then we must move in order to defend the Palestinian people's rights and the prerequisites for peace in the Middle East.

[Nawfal] What are the aims of such Egyptian and Arab moves at this particular stage?

[Ghali] Our aims are to stop the deterioration, and to lay down the foundation to find solutions, even partial solutions, to the Middle East crisis. We believe that partial solutions are better than the current situation. Time is not on the side of the Arabs with regard to the Middle East crisis. We must move, whether on the Lebanese front or Palestinian front, or even on the current war between Iraq and Iran. We must move. Diplomacy must move. We must ascertain that negotiations are the means to solve the issues that threaten peace and security in the region.

[Nawfal] Do you believe that the current circumstances are suitable?

[Ghali] Making moves in itself will assist in achieving suitable circumstances. If we wait for suitable circumstances, we will not move. Therefore, we must move and that will help alter the circumstances in the region.

[Nawfal] Thank you, Dr Butrus Ghali.

[Ghali] Thank you.

Abu Ghazalah Attends Armed Forces Training Exercise 14 Jan

NC141416 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1355 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jan (MENA) — Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, today attended a training and technical exercise [words indistinct] conducted by the Armed Forces' supply and provision unit. The exercise was intended for coordinating and organizing cooperation between the civilian and military sectors to meet modern war requirements. The exercise was attended by a number of ministers, Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Ibrahim al-'Urabi, and Chief of the Armed Forces Operations Staff Major General Salah 'Abd al-Halim.

Social Insurance Agreement Signed With Yugoslavia

NC131612 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 13 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Cairo, 13 Jan (MENA) — Egypt and Yugoslavia today signed an agreement for cooperation in the field of social insurance.

The agreement was signed for Egypt by Dr Amal 'Uthman, minister of social insurance and minister of state for social affairs, and for Yugoslavia by the minister of social insurance, labor, and health.

The agreement provides that citizens of the contracting states working in the other country shall enjoy the same rights and obligations as the citizens of the country where they are employed.

Briefs

Ambassador to Khartoum — Cairo, Jan 14 (MENA) — Husayn Musharrafah, Egyptian ambassador-designate to the Sudan, left for Khartoum, today to take up his office succeeding Ambassador Ahmad 'Izzat 'Abd al-Latif who was appointed head of the Cairo diplomatic institute. Musharrafah was the head of the Egyptian interests section in Tunis. [Text] [*Cairo MENA in English 1923 GMT 14 Jan NC*]

Wheat Agreement — Cairo, Jan 14 (MENA) — Egypt and Canada signed here today an agreement for the supply of half a million tons of Canadian wheat to Egypt during this year. The agreement also provides for Canada helping Egypt set up three wheat metal silos worth 18 million dollars. Work on the three silos, which will have a capacity of 30,000 tons each, will begin in April this year. The agreement will be financed by the Canadian International Development Agency and the Canadian Wheat Board. This is the second agreement of the kind between Egypt and Canada, the first having been concluded last year on 650,000 tons of Canadian wheat for Egypt. [Text] [*Cairo MENA in English 1920 GMT 14 Jan NC*]

Reportage on Developments in Gulf War With Iran

Iranian Victory Claim Refuted

JN141644 Baghdad INA in English 1640 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 14, INA — Iraq has flatly refuted a Tehran radio report, carried by the French News Agency (AFP), that Iran repulsed an Iraqi attack on the Island of Haj Salbukh (Menu) on Jan 11, describing the claim as totally unfounded.

An Iraqi military spokesman told INA that no military activity whatsoever was carried out by the Iraqi Armed Forces in this area neither on Jan 11, nor the following days.

This allegation, the spokesman said, was intended as a prelude to an Iranian attempt to occupy tiny islands in the Shatt al-'Arab waterway. Iraq is fully prepared to destroy such an attempt, the spokesman concluded.

'Large Maritime Target' Hit

JN141725 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Communique No 1,711 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 14 January 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Through their heroic activities, Iraq's glorious sons are daily teaching the enemy the hardest of lessons in the need to respect Iraq's sovereignty and security and yield to the call of peace, thus placing Iran's rulers face to face with their real size and driving home to them the state of weakness and collapse they are undergoing. The following is a roundup of the activities carried out by our units yesterday evening and today:

1. With ability to crush aggression and its tools, our bold Air Force planes carried out a successful air strike against a large maritime target near Khark Island and managed at 1705 [1405 GMT] today to hit it accurately. Our planes returned safely to base, guarded by almighty God.

We emphasize to Iran's rulers that the list of the maritime targets attacked by Iraq will increase daily and that there is no salvation from the cordon imposed on them except by accepting peace and by recognizing Iraq's legitimate right to the Arab Gulf waterways.

2. Our helicopter gunships carried out air raids against an enemy boat and one of the enemy's hideouts in the Maysan sector and managed to destroy the boat and kill all the hideout's personnel. Our helicopters returned safely, with God's care and protection.

3. Our forward units fired on enemy forces opposite our positions in the operational sector east of Basra, killing two, wounding others, and destroying four vehicles, one 120-mm mortar emplacement, and one medium machine gun emplacement.

4. Our forward units pounded enemy weaponry and vehicular positions in the operational sector east of Basra, killing two, destroying one vehicle, one observation post, and two infantry positions, and burned one hardware stockpile.

5. One antitank gun was destroyed in the Central sector of the operational theater.

6. The impotent regime in Iran continues to assert its grudge against Iraq and its people. It shelled several civilian areas in Basra with heavy artillery, damaging two houses.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 14 January 1985

Spokesman Denies Plane Downing

JN150658 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0615 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Jan (INA) — An Iraqi military spokesman has denied Iranian claims of downing an Iraqi plane over Arab Gulf waters. In a statement to INA this morning, the spokesman said that Iraqi planes did not encounter any plane of the remaining Iranian Air Force during Iraqi Air Force operations yesterday. Describing the Iranian claims as mere lies, the spokesman said that the Iranian rulers are well aware of their inability to confront the capable Iraqi Air Force. He pointed out that such lies are meant to raise the sagging morale of the Iranian forces and belittle the importance of the painful blows that the Iraqi Air Force has been dealing to the Iranian rulers over the past few days.

Tehran radio had earlier alleged that an Iraqi plane was shot down in a dogfight over Arab Gulf waters yesterday, but it did not define the area over which the dogfight occurred. Iraq's military communique yesterday made it clear that all of the Iraqi aircraft that carried out missions yesterday returned safely to base.

Ramadan Receives PRC Delegation, Romanian Envoy

JN141440 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1310 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Text] Baghdad, 14 JAN (INA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, today received Li Menghua, Chinese Communist Party Central Committee member and minister in charge of the State Physical Culture and Sports Commission, and his delegation. During the meeting they reviewed bilateral relations and methods of developing and expanding all fields of cooperation for the good of the two friendly countries.

Taha Yasin Ramadan also received Romanian Ambassador Mihail Diamandopol. They discussed bilateral economic, technical, and trade cooperation and means of developing it.

ICRC President Tells of 'Deadlock' on POW Issue

JN141958 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1920 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Text] Amman, 14 Jan (INA) — Alexandre Hay, president of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC], has expressed his deep concern over the treatment of Iraqi prisoners of war in Iran's prisons and over the Iranian regime's violation of the

Geneva conventions. In a statement to the INA correspondent here at the end of the emergency meeting of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Permanent Committee tonight, he said that the committee can no longer work in Iran for the welfare of Iraqi prisoners since the Iranian authorities have insulted the International Committee. He added that the Iranian authorities prevented ICRC representatives from working in Iran to secure the safety of Iraqi prisoners who are suffering from the Iranian authorities' arbitrary measures.

Hay indicated that the committee reached a deadlock with the Iranian authorities and said: From a humanitarian viewpoint, we cannot leave the Iraqi prisoners without protection. He hoped that the Iranian authorities will change their policy toward the committee and its humane work. If Iran fails to implement the Geneva conventions, Hay said, we will ask friendly governments to use their good offices and put political pressure on the Iranian Government to make it respect these conventions. He stressed the committee's desire and interest to cooperate with governments to make sure that they respect international law and human rights.

Communique Calls Up Conscripts, Reservists

JN141805 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Text] The Mobilization and Statistics Department at the Defense Ministry has issued a communique asking conscripts born in 1947 and later who are currently not in military service to report to their recruitment offices. The following is the text of the communique:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Communique No 54 for 1985 issued by the Mobilization and Statistics Department at the Defense Ministry:

In accordance with Clause C of Paragraph 1 of Article 15 of amended Military Service Law No 65 of 1969, and in implementation of the provisions of RCC Decree No 1340 on 6 December 1984, we decide the following:

1. To call on conscripts born in 1947 and later who are currently not in military service to report to their recruitment offices within 7 days as of the issuance of this communique for those in Iraq and within 15 days for those abroad.

2. This communique does not apply to those within this age category who are currently performing compulsory service.

[Signed] The brigadier general, deputy director of the Mobilization and Statistics Department

RCC Decree of 6 December 1984 stipulates the following: Those subject to reserve service who have not been called up before, due to their performance of compulsory service before their age category was drafted as reservists, shall be summoned to perform reserve service.

INA has learned that the Mobilization and Statistics Department communique applies to all those subject to compulsory service who were born between 1947 and 1957 in Iraq and who were demobilized and did not perform the reserve service when their age category was called up as they were under compulsory service and on whom the decision to suspend disbandment has not been applied. Moreover, the communique does not include those born in 1949 who were disbanded after performing reserve service, except for those among them who have not yet performed this service.

INA also learned that the instructions regarding exceptions, postponement, and deputization as cited in RCC decrees, as well as other decisions on all age categories, are still valid and are not included by the Mobilization and Statistics Department communique.

AL-THAWRAH Warns Tankers Not To Approach Khark

JN150955 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0732 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Jan (INA) — The newspaper *AL-THAWRAH* has warned international shipping companies against allowing their tankers to approach Iran's Khark Island and other Iranian ports since they are military zones.

In an article today, the paper calls on the owners of companies to abide by Iraqi decisions in this regard in order to provide a serious contribution to peace prospects by stifling the Iranian economy and forcing the Iranian rulers to yield to the logic of right and justice. The paper points out that profits will increase and double and tankers will be more active when peace and stability are restored to the Arab Gulf waters.

The paper points out that for humanitarian reasons, Iraq has reiterated its calls to parties who, despite continuous air strikes, insist on their attempts to break the siege. The paper stresses that the international shipping companies' real interest lies in peace, as do the interests of the peoples of the region and the world who are exposed to the Iranian threats and blackmail.

2 Explosions Reported in Syria; Talas Wounded

JN142118 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2058 GMT 14 JAN 85

[Text] Paris, 14 Jan (INA) — Arrivals from Damascus have said that a violent explosion occurred in the central post office building [words indistinct].

AL-TALI'AH AL-'ARABIYAH magazine, issued here today, cited the arrivals as saying that the Syrian authorities have shrouded the incident in secrecy to prevent leakage of any information about it. The magazine said that a similar explosion preceded this one in a Syrian intelligence office in Hayy al-Midan in Damascus.

In another development, information recently received from Syria reported much talk by Syrian citizens about Defense Minister Mustafa Talas' collusion with drug smugglers working on a hashish farm in Lebanon.

The magazine cited these sources as saying that Talas was hit with a bullet in the shoulder and was transferred to a hospital with other drug smugglers.

Kurdish Clandestine on Peshmerga Operations
GF141640 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Kurdish 1200 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Text] The third unit of our struggling party in the Kirkuk region has informed us that on 29 December 1984 our brothers of the [word indistinct] local committee attacked with hand grenades a police station inside Kirkuk. As a result of this brave operation, a police sergeant was seriously wounded. Greetings to the Kirkuk heros and inhabitants.

On 5 January, our brothers of the Al-'Amadiyah local committee attacked with hand grenades a vehicle belonging to the fascist Ba'thist branch in the Al-Zuhur region of Mosul. The vehicle was destroyed and all its occupants were killed, A police vehicle was seen rushing to the scene.

On 10 January, a patrol of the brave Halabjah local committee attacked an enemy bunker guarding a factory and killed two guards. After this valiant operation, the peshmerga returned to base safely.

A patrol of the two main cells of the struggling Halabjah local committee last week attacked with various weapons the sangar of [word indistinct] near Ahmadawa, killing two soldiers. The patrol then returned to base safely.

AFP: Jihad To Try Kidnapped Americans

NC141805 Paris AFP in English 1802 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Beirut, Jan 14 (AFP) — The Islamic Jihad organisation claimed responsibility here for today's fatal shooting of two French military observers in the southern suburbs of Beirut. The Moslem fundamentalist group also said five Americans kidnapped here during the past 10 months were being tried as spies and would "get the punishment they deserve."

An unidentified called told the offices here of a foreign news agency that the two Frenchmen had been caught spying on Islamic Jihad positions and movements in southern Beirut. The caller said the two soldiers, described as sergeant-majors in their mid-thirties, were gathering intelligence for Israel, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, and right-wing Christian Lebanese Phalangists.

He said the five abducted Americans were U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) agents who had taken advantage of "the hospitality of Islamic regions (in Lebanon) to accomplish terrorist acts under the cover of journalists, scientists, or clergymen."

The caller identified the five Americans as Jeremy Levin, Beirut bureau chief for Cable News Network, William Buckley, a political counselor at the U.S. Embassy here, the Reverend Benjamin Weir, Beirut American University librarian Peter Kilburn, and Father Lawrence Jenco.

Mr Levin and Mr Buckley were kidnapped last March, Mr Weir in May, Mr Kilburn in November and Father Jenco last Tuesday.

AL-NAHAR Cites Sha'ban's Threats to U.S.

NC150900 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 14 Jan 85 p 1

[Excerpts] Tripoli — Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, the prince of the Islamic Unification Movement, has warned the United States that "it will soon witness operations against it on its soil in retaliation for [the sufferings of] the people of the south and Palestine." He emphasized "that no one can stop the Islamic tide, which has started to upset the White House."

Shaykh Sha'ban's address came yesterday during a ceremony held by "the Islamic group" at the Al-Mansuri Mosque in Tripoli in observation of "the Day of the Southern Martyrs."

The ceremony was attended by Ahmad al-Khatib, commander of the Army of Arab Lebanon; Eng 'Abdallah Babti, the official in charge of political affairs in the Islamic group; members of the Northern Coordination Committee; and representatives of the organizations and parties in the north.

Addressing the ceremony, Shaykh Sha'ban said: The Islamic action is being obstructed by many hurdles, foremost of which are those stemming from the Muslims themselves. Those are the jobless Muslims who are not contributing to the Islamic action and who are not concerned with what is taking place. Those are content with what they get everyday.

Shaykh Sha'ban added: We tell the Syrian brothers what we told them in Damascus, and we repeat it today, that if Syria really wants to fight Israel, the Muslims will be its greatest ally in opening a front against Israel. We emphasize that the parties, which were defeated in the south and in Beirut, and left the sinking ship like mice and rats before the Israeli Army, are ineffective militarily and politically, and can not face the Islamic tide. This tide has started to upset the White House which has been fortified with concrete bunkers against any possible Muslim attacks.

Continuing, Shaykh Sha'ban said: We tell these parties that the United States, despite its military power and hellish war machine, will not withstand those who are ready to sacrifice their lives for the sake of God. Paradise to us is more precious than the whole world. He said that soon the United States will be the scene of operations on its soil in retaliation for what the people of the south and Palestine bitterly suffered at the hands of U.S. colonialism, which is now being cursed by all nations...

For years now the world communists have been saying a big lie to the effect that the Soviet war machine is the friend of the poor and oppressed peoples. The communists who are the agents of the United States [as published] and the agents of a world crusade are all working to undermine the Islamic tide in the world...

Let the communists, who attacked our brothers in 'Akkar, learn the lesson of the Red Army and Yellow Army which renounced socialism and are cursing it.

Responses to Murder of Two French Observers

Liaison Committee Denounces Murder

NC141837 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in English 1745 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Text] The Joint Liaison Committee for Iqlim al-Kharrub and the coast held a meeting today to discuss the steps so far taken in the security plan and ways of assuring the reopening of secondary roads in the Iqlim. After the meeting, the following communique was issued:

The committee received the report about the treacherous aggression which cost the lives of two French observers. The committee immediately presented its sympathy to the chief of the French observers force, Colonel Jean Susini, and strongly denounced such a criminal act. While expressing its deep sorrow for this incident, the committee wished to reaffirm its gratitude to the French observers for the humanistic, noble, and perilous mission they are carrying out in Lebanon.

Birri Denounces Observers' Murder

NC141924 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Text] Nabih Birri, minister of justice and minister of state for south Lebanon and reconstruction affairs, denounced the shooting of the two French soldiers in Beirut, maintaining that this action is a crime not only against the French, but against

Lebanon and the international community. Minister Birri instructed the responsible security commands to act effectively and quickly to uncover the culprits so they can receive a just punishment which will deter others. Birri maintained that any attack against the UN observers, or any UNIFIL contingent, is regarded as an attack against the south and its people, and more precisely against the unity of Lebanon.

French May Reconsider Mission

NC151247 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Text] The Liaison Committee met at the Hippodrome today to discuss the repeated attacks against French observers. The commander of the French observers, who called for the meeting, told the committee that Colonel (Lapaze) will be seriously reconsidering the future of the French observers during his coming visit to Lebanon.

The committee decided to discontinue the French observers' participation in surveying the depots in which arms have been collected as part of the security plan for Greater Beirut. This discontinuation comes in response to a request by Colonel Jean Susini after the murder of two French observers in Burj al-Barajinah.

Colonel Susini, the commander of the French observers, pleaded for understanding of the French position and called on all quarters to provide the necessary protection for the French observers' posts in Al-Shuwayfat and at Al-Murr Tower, for fear of further attacks in West Beirut.

On his part, the Lebanese Forces' representative asked the Amal movement representative to halt the setting up of barricades and fortifications west of the contact lines.

Karami, Birri React to Israeli Withdrawal Decision

NC150650 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Text] Commenting on Israeli's decision to withdraw its forces from Lebanon, Prime Minister Rashid Karami said that Lebanon's objective is to achieve an unconditional Israeli withdrawal from the south. Therefore, Karami added, it is not important how the withdrawal will be implemented. What actually matters is that this withdrawal should enable Lebanon to regain its sovereignty and liberation without any preset conditions.

Reacting to the Israeli decision, Minister Nabih Birri said: We will postpone our comment pending the full and unconditional implementation of the decision.

Birri on Israeli Withdrawal, Security Plan

NC151344 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Excerpts] Today the Parliamentary Finance and Budget Committee discussed the Justice Ministry's budget in the presence of Nabih Birri in his capacity as minister of justice, and in the presence of the chairman and members of the Parliamentary Committee for Administration and Justice. Deputy Rene Mu'awwad chaired the meeting.

Minister Birri made the following statement after the meeting:

[Begin recording] [Birri] The session was devoted to a discussion of the budget of the Ministry of Southern Lebanon and Reconstruction Affairs. We explained that the 30 million Lebanese pound allocation is for supporting the national resistance in the south.

[Unidentified reporter] Israel has announced an interim program for its withdrawal. We have become accustomed to something being concealed after each withdrawal. What can you tell us?

[Birri] The fact is that we must not be optimistic or do nothing in view of this withdrawal. You will note that according to the Israeli plan, this withdrawal will be implemented in three stages. The implementation of only the first stage is given a time frame. The two other stages are not given a time frame. This allows Israel to maneuver, as has been its custom. We do not care for any plan to be implemented by Israel. We are concerned with the unconditional total withdrawal, the restoration of Lebanese sovereignty, and the continuation of the support for the Lebanese national resistance, because it will remain the only card in the hand of the Lebanese and of their [word indistinct] until Israel departs.

[Unidentified reporter] It appears that the coastal plan has encountered obstacles.

[Birri] This does not cancel the fact that the coastal plan is a good one despite the hurdles. What is required is that the Army should reach its target. In other words, it is clearly demanded that the Lebanese Army should reach Al-Awwali, even if this calls for a battle to be waged by the Lebanese Army [words indistinct]. The Army is required to unite the Lebanese around it. The Lebanese will not rally around the Army before it implements the political decision approved unanimously by all the Lebanese. In this context, the Army commander and specialists at the Foreign Ministry were contacted yesterday regarding the Israeli obstacle that forced the Army to stop at a distance from Al-Awwali. An opportunity is now given for political action to take its course. If it does not bear the desired fruits, then it is very clear that the Army has a task which it must accomplish regardless of the cost.

[Unidentified reporter] Does the hurdle on the [word indistinct] road prevent the implementation of the Tripoli plan and the reopening of the mountain area?

[Birri] [passage indistinct]

[Unidentified reporter] [Words indistinct] regarding the Cabinet's decision.

[Birri] It must not [words indistinct] its effectiveness. We want 1 week and when we make sure of one step, we will start the other step.

[Unidentified reporter] In other words, the road will not be opened in 1 week, but there will be preparation in 1 week?

[Birri] Let us hope we will be able, God willing. Let us hope we will be able to implement it, God willing. We are supposed to be able to implement it. [end recording]

UN's Urquhart Arrives in Beirut, Meets Al-Turk

NC151032 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Text] UN Assistant Secretary General Brian Urquhart arrived in Beirut from the occupied Arab territory this morning. Accompanied by Jean-Claude Aime, deputy assistant UN secretary general, Urquhart went immediately to the Foreign Ministry where they held a meeting with Foreign Ministry Secretary General Fu'ad al-Turk in the presence of Ambassador Khalil Makkawi and Ghazi Shidyaq, director of International Organizations' Affairs. The meeting is still in progress.

Israeli Forces Surround Villages in Tyre

NC150737 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Text] The Israeli occupation forces have been surrounding villages east of Tyre since dawn today. This action follows the enemy's admission of two operations which resulted in the killing of two enemy soldiers and the wounding of seven others. The Israeli forces imposed a curfew in the area and mounted a campaign of searches, raids, and arrests. There has been no additional information because of the Israeli military cordon imposed around these villages.

65-75 Israeli Casualties Claimed in Resistance Attack

NC141530 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Text] The Israeli enemy today suffered a large number of casualties estimated to be between 65 and 75 killed and wounded in a daring heroic operation carried out by Lebanese national resistance fighters against the Israeli occupation forces in Al-Zrariyah.

Lebanese national resistance fighters today escalated their operations against the Israeli occupation forces and the Lahd militias in the occupied areas. They detonated an explosive charge in Al-Zrariyah as an Israeli mechanized patrol was passing through. The explosion destroyed a vehicle and a jeep driven by an Israeli intelligence officer. Large reinforcements of occupation forces were summoned to the scene. However, a similar explosive charge went off upon the arrival of these reinforcements, destroying two vehicles and killing and wounding about 50 Israeli soldiers. According to information received from the south, seven trucks and an armored personnel carrier were hit in the operation. Eyewitnesses reported that three wounded Israeli soldiers were seen in the area of the explosion wailing and crying as a result of the wounds they received.

Israeli Army TV Station Reported in South

NC120650 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 12 Jan 85

[Text] Travelers arriving from western Al-Biqa' and Rashayya have reported that the Zionist occupation army has set up a television transmission station on the Al-Baruk mountain. The station began to transmit Hebrew programs and films on Channel 32 UHF a few days ago.

Iran's Sheykh ol-Eslam Leaves Damascus 14 Jan

JN141531 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1450 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Text] Damascus, 14 Jan (SANA) — Iranian Assistant Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam left Damascus today at the end of a visit during which he held talks with senior Syrian officials. The talks dealt with bolstering Syrian-Iranian relations to confront conspiratorial U.S. imperialist schemes in the region.

In a statement at Damascus Airport before his departure, Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam praised the positive results reached during his talks with officials in Syria. He said the talks dealt with the pressures U.S. imperialism is imposing to solve the Palestine question and also with ways to reinforce and bolster joint struggle stands to confront all conspiracies by U.S. imperialism in the region.

Ba'th Congress Ends Economic Report Discussion

JN141841 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Text] The Eighth Ba'th Party Regional Congress has ended discussion of the economic report. The congress reviewed the great achievements scored in all fields, studied existing obstacles and negative aspects, and made a series of resolutions and recommendations to bolster these achievements and deal with the existing obstacles in a manner that would entrench the economic base and exploit all means and potentials in Syria.

The Eighth Ba'th Party Regional Congress resumed meetings at 1800 today to discuss the report on Syria's domestic policy.

Ends Domestic Policy Discussion

JN151229 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Text] Damascus — The Eighth Ba'th Party Regional Congress resumed work at 1000 today. It has ended discussion of the domestic policy report, after approving several resolutions and recommendations that would strengthen the domestic front. The congress has begun discussing the Ba'th Party Central Committee's organizational report.

AL-THAWRAH Views Approval of Rabin Plan

JN151003 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 15 Jan 85

[From the press review]

[Text] In the column "Voice of *AL-THAWRAH*" and under the headline "Unconditional Withdrawal Is Israel's Only Choice," *AL-THAWRAH* says: The Israeli Cabinet's approval of the Rabin plan, which calls for a phased withdrawal of the invasion forces from southern Lebanon, again reflects the deep Israeli crisis as a result of its invasion of Lebanon, the extent of confusion in Israeli decisionmaking, and the effective Lebanese resistance, which rendered Israeli policy utterly corrupt.

Having reviewed the enemy entity's stifling economic crisis, *AL-THAWRAH* says: Despite the fact that the recent Israeli Cabinet's approval of the so-called Rabin plan came under the pressure of the Israeli crisis and as a result of the brave Lebanese national resistance actions, this approval can never be an acceptable alternative to total, unconditional withdrawal from southern Lebanon. Therefore, any Israeli attempt to change the Lebanese situation or to maneuver under the cover of partial or phased withdrawal will not deceive Lebanon, which has affirmed its full determination to realize complete Israeli withdrawal without any conditions or chains. To realize this just aim, Lebanon will not hesitate to exercise its legitimate right to use all available means, including the armed struggle of the resistance, in order to continue exhausting the invasion forces and forcing them to yield to Lebanon's national demand of compelling them to withdraw from Lebanese territory.

Commentary Criticizes Arab 'Summit Game'

JN151329 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The current moves in the Arab capitals of defeatism and betrayal have defined the dimensions of the call to form the capitulationist Arab grouping. The new U.S. methods to impose the U.S. desire on the Arab nation have also been defined. The call for a summit or a minisummit and the preparations to hold it under the pretext of preserving Arab solidarity have revealed the truth behind the meetings and preparations in Amman, Cairo, and Rabat, as well as in the 'Arafatist headquarters which is roaming the defeatist capitals.

According to the renegades and the new Camp David zealots, it is necessary to get rid of the previous Arab resolutions that stipulated the exclusive PLO representation of the Palestinian people and the continuation of the Arab-Zionist struggle as long as Arab territories are occupied and the Palestinian people are exiled from their homes and territory. Because the 'Arafatist leadership placed Palestinian decisionmaking in Jordanian hands and empowered the Egyptian regime to speak to the Zionists on behalf of the Palestinian people and because this leadership has responded to the U.S. demand to abandon the rifle, the proposed Arab summit is required in order to approve 'Arafat's move of amending the Palestine National Charter, to allow King Husayn to establish direct contacts with Israel, and to permit the Egyptian regime to lead the current phase by returning to the Arab ranks — despite the fact that this return has now taken place, since the U.S. brokers in the Arab world have defused the Baghdad summit resolutions and recommendations. This is the role of the pro-American Arabs.

As for the American Israel, it will play a role in supporting the capitulationist march without conceding any Israeli terms or expansionist aims of settlement. In order to perfect the deception, Israel arranged the game of tactical withdrawal in Lebanon. It reached agreement with the Egyptian regime to withdraw from Tabah in favor of the U.S. forces and to establish an international zone at the southern tip of the Sinai Peninsula. The capitulationist Arabs will undoubtedly exploit the two Israeli measures in

southern Lebanon and Sinai for propaganda purposes. They will use these measures to defend both their positions and Israel.

As both the renegade leaders and the Arab masses are aware, Israel will be able to implement its games within the grand plot against the Arab nation and homeland by deploying its forces in southern Lebanon. Israel wants to reduce its losses on Lebanese territory. It needs a new strife in southern Lebanon that would rob the resistance of its ability to continue the liberation march. Therefore, Israel will keep two footholds for itself on Lebanese territory: one will be a political foothold and the other will be on the ground. By arming its agents who will serve its aims, Israel will try to engage the Lebanese people in internecine fighting that would enhance its strategy of disturbing Lebanese security and unity. Israel will establish a military wall that would be a means of settling in the territory south of the Al-Litani River and a passage for Israeli forces toward the region in which it will try to create trouble.

Thus, the proposed summit game is U.S. diplomacy's most serious achievement and the most salient feature of the the Arab reactionaries' plot concerning Arab fate and existence. The plotting partners have undoubtedly taken into consideration the role of Syria, which is able to foil this U.S. achievement. Therefore, Israel will pay the plotters the price of their plots by preparing a large-scale aggression against Syria in which the United States will be a partner. The Arab capitulators' role in this aggression will be either to open their borders to the Zionist army or to capitulate to and justify this aggression by remaining silent or by forming a noose [around Syria] which is in itself as serious as the Zionist aggression.

However, Syria is alert to all these ideas and evil designs. Therefore, it has built its strategy on practical calculations and foundations which are immediately applicable and which are capable of deciding results, upsetting calculations, and foiling intentions. The plotters may be impatient in their desire to implement their plots and plans, but Syria is capable of controlling time as well as plots, and of creating new realities that will promote victory and liberation.

Reactionary Axis Moves 'Doomed to Failure'

JN150921 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 15 Jan 85

[From the press review]

[Text] In a commentary entitled "The Reactionary Axis' Moves Are Doomed to Failure," *AL-BA'TH* says: Two months after 'Arafat's divisionist PNC session in Amman, many questions are being asked. How far have the moves of the U.S.-sponsored Arab reactionary axis reached? Have these moves realized the aims of this axis?

Reports on these moves indicate that the pillars of this axis have distributed roles among themselves, allowing each to play his assigned role. The Egyptian regime, which has shouldered responsibility for arranging issues in Israel [as heard], has intensified its efforts in this direction. It is said that this regime has reached an advanced stage with Israel, in terms of starting direct negotiations with the Jordanian regime and with West Bank Palestinians who deal with 'Arafat and of whom Israel approves. The Egyptian regime is paving the way for a meeting between 'Arafat and an Israeli envoy who will arrive in Cairo when 'Arafat visits Cairo later, as was announced a few days ago.

With Husni Mubarak's visit to Washington and his awaited meeting next month [as heard], the Egyptian regime will have played its assigned role in the issue of direct negotiation between Israel on the one hand and the Jordanian regime and 'Arafat's representatives on the other.

Concerning the joint moves of the Jordanian regime and 'Arafat's gang, daily reports say that these Arab-level moves have been stepped up in order to elicit support from certain Arab regimes for the King Husayn-'Arafat concept on the future of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. It may be gleaned from news reports that this concept does not go beyond the Camp David agreements and their annexes, particularly those dealing with the West Bank and Gaza. Moscow radio corroborated this fact when it said in a commentary that Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres is currently considering implementation of an Israeli-Jordanian initiative on the West Bank.

Again we say that King Husayn and 'Arafat are endeavoring to muster approval from some Arab regimes for their conspiratorial plan against the Palestinian people and cause. Therefore, they are now trying to come up with a situation that would lead to holding an Arab summit through an Arab majority rather than consensus. If they realize this, they would be repeating the same game which they implemented to convene the PNC. To be more precise, the new game will be even more detrimental to the Arab situation in general than the old one.

Undoubtedly some Arabs have been encouraging Husayn and 'Arafat to continue their plot aimed at dividing the Arab nation and liquidating the Palestinian question, thus placing the region under U.S.-Zionist hegemony. These Arabs are known to everyone. They themselves encouraged Al-Sadat to carry out his treasonous steps. However, and despite reports that these conspiratorial moves will end the Arab-Israeli dispute in a way that the United States and Israel wish, we say that these plots will be doomed to failure. The future will prove that all those who participate or contribute, in one form or another, to these conspiratorial moves, will meet a fate that is no better than Al-Sadat's and all the agents and traitors. The only victor will be the cause for whose sake hundreds of thousands of martyrs have sacrificed their lives.

Cabinet Votes for Phased Withdrawal From Lebanon

16 Favor, 6 Oppose

TA141930 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Text] A few minutes ago the Cabinet decided on a unilateral IDF withdrawal from Lebanon in phases to the international border. Sixteen voted in favor, six voted against. Let us go over to the Prime Minister's Office, to our political correspondent there, Yoram Ronen.

[Ronen] Well, the Cabinet session ended a few minutes ago. The Cabinet approved the defense establishment's proposal to begin implementing the withdrawal in phases from Lebanon without setting a timetable. Actually, the decision speaks about an IDF redeployment in Lebanon. Throughout the day efforts have been made here, in the Prime Minister's Office, and elsewhere, to reach a formulation that would be agreed on by both several of the Likud ministers — such as Corfu, Qatzav, or Nisim, who proposed that the Cabinet decide today only to implement the first phase in the program for a withdrawal from Lebanon and, with regard to the other phases, a separate decision would be made — and by Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who were firm in their views, insisting that the decision to be made this evening should be the defense establishment's decision; that is, the Cabinet would decide that the IDF will withdraw from, or rather redeploy in, Lebanon in phases.

The first phase will soon be implemented. The other phases will be implemented later, with the final goal being a withdrawal to the international border. That, perhaps, was the key sentence over which there were differences of opinion all day. The Likud ministers wanted to remove, to erase from the decision the words that the IDF would ultimately deploy on the international border, while Prime Minister Peres and Defense Minister Rabin and their colleagues in the Alignment insisted that this sentence be included in the decision as proposed by the defense establishment; that is, that the final phase of the redeployment will be on the international border. Cabinet Secretary Dr Yosc Beilin, what is the Cabinet decision?

[Beilin] The Cabinet has decided that the IDF will redeploy on the State of Israel's northern border. The Cabinet will do everything required to guarantee safety for Galilee. The deployment will be implemented in three main phases.

Phase I: In the western sector of Lebanon, the IDF will evacuate the Sidon area and deploy in the Al-Litani-Al-Nabatiyah area.

Phase II: In the eastern sector of Lebanon, the IDF will deploy in the Hasbayya area.

Phase III: The IDF will deploy along the international border of Israel and Lebanon, with the existence of an area in southern Lebanon in which local forces will operate, that is the army of southern Lebanon [ASL] with IDF backing.

The first phase will be implemented within 5 weeks from this decision. An announcement about the timing will be given in advance to the Government of Lebanon and the UN Secretariat with the goal of permitting them to organize and deploy forces in the area to be evacuated by the IDF. The timing of every other phase will be decided by the Cabinet. During all the phases, efforts to arrive at political arrangements will continue.

[Ronen] Dr Beilin, with what majority was the decision made?

[Beilin] With a large majority.

[Ronen] I can add from personal knowledge, that the majority was 16 ministers voted for the proposal, 6 ministers voted against. Those voting against included Vice Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, Minister Moshe Arens, Minister Hayim Corfu, Minister Moshe Qatzav, Minister Avraham Sharir, and Justice Minister Moshe Nisim. Those were the six ministers from the Likud who voted against this decision. Sir, Defense Minsiter Yitzhaq Rabin, are you pleased with the decision that has been approved?

[Rabin] I am pleased with the decision, but I know that there is still a long road ahead of us regarding its implementation. The decision is aimed at providing a bridge between the Cabinet's insistence on providing security for the settlements and inhabitants of the north, and preventing the IDF from staying in Lebanon for a length of time that is not required to achieve that goal. The alternatives facing us were difficult ones and the decision, in my view, was a courageous decision made after prolonged preparation by the General Staff, deliberations in the defense establishment, deliberations by the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs of the Cabinet, and two very intense deliberations by the Cabinet.

I must say that the nature of the debate — that is, the atmosphere — despite the differences of opinion, was characterized by a sincere desire to find a solution to our two main concerns in Lebanon — security and bringing the IDF home. We will now get down to the implementation of the first phase. Over the 5 weeks that remain until the beginning of the implementation of this first phase, we will talk with the United Nations, with Lebanon, with the Lebanese Government, in Al-Naqurah or through the United Nations, with other elements, and we will propose to them: Here, you have time; it is possible to organize the evacuation of the area in the first phase correctly, without riots, massacres, or disorder.

In that sector we evacuate we will propose to UNIFIL that it takes over the area from us in an orderly fashion.

We will propose to the United Nations and to the Lebanese Government that they deploy to take over the area in an orderly fashion, using the Lebanese Army. After all, they have claimed that the Lebanese Army has the power to maintain security in southern Lebanon. Let us put this to the test. In any event, the decision to evacuate will not be made dependent on the willingness of the United Nations or the willingness of the Lebanese Government and its Army to coordinate actions with us. However, if things occur in that area, the world will know, the nation in Israel will know that we, for our part, gave them time, that we, as the representatives of the Lebanese Army and Government claimed at the Al-Naqurah talks, permitted them to take over the area in an orderly fashion.

[Ronen] If things occur, do you mean a massacre, heaven forbid?

[Rabin] I do not know what could and what could not happen. I would like, in the area to be evacuated by us, in the first phase, for law and order to be maintained by two elements — a UN element, if it is willing to take the area over from us, and hand it over to the Lebanese Army; and the Lebanese Army. This, in my view, is a test for the Government of Lebanon regarding the assertion it presented to us at Al-Naqurah that it is capable of maintaining law and order, and controlling the region. Let us try to do this gradually. After whatever happens happens and in another 5 weeks we will evacuate the first section: we will see what occurs there. The Cabinet, in its decision, has reserved for itself — and rightly so — the right to examine the results of every phase and make a decision in view of these results, about the implementation and timing of the implementation of the next phase. The goal of this is to reach the end of this process — following these three phases — without any unexpected surprises, with a security deployment altering the nature of the IDF working system. Instead of an IDF deployed, spread out and representing a target for Shi'ites and other terrorist elements in southern Lebanon, it will be a concentrated IDF, capable of carrying out an offensive action, and we will reserve for ourselves full freedom of military action in any event of a nest — the beginnings of an infrastructure for terrorists of one sort or another in southern Lebanon — being created. We will not hesitate to enter and eliminate these attempts at getting organized. This will be a system of defense; it will be mobile, and aggressive. Its aim is to guarantee the security of the northern settlements and residents in a different way from the one in existence at present.

[Ronen] Mr Rabin, within 6 weeks do you see the IDF returning to the international border?

[Rabin] The Cabinet has not decided on timing. It has only decided on a timing for the first phase, with our expectation — our hope — naturally being that it will indeed be possible to implement the phases in some sort of order that will not take a long time. Time will be counted in months, not in weeks, for each phase, and I recommend patience and waiting to see how the decision is implemented, in accordance with the results of each and every phase.

[Ronen] If the first phase does not prove itself — if, heaven forbid, there are terrorist actions and this forces the IDF to remain on the interim line for a longer time — do you not foresee the danger that the IDF will remain on the interim line, not for months, as you say...

[Rabin — interrupting] I do not want to deal today with speculations about what will happen, or what will not happen. I have presented the Cabinet decision, the logic behind it, the goals of the move. The goals of the move are anchored in the two goals the Cabinet set itself for its policy in Lebanon — security for the settlements and inhabitants of the north, and bringing the IDF home.

[Ronen] In conclusion, Mr Defense Minister, why were you opposed to the demand by some of the Likud ministers that the Cabinet should decide on each phase separately and only when the time comes? Will it decide on a withdrawal to the international border, if conditions permit it?

[Rabin] I think we should learn from the lessons of the past and not make a decision that does not see to where another two or three steps are going afterward. Any rash decision which is not part of the views of a security-military policy of principle,is an erroneous approach and I think that it is my duty as defense minister — it is the duty of the General Staff — to go to the Cabinet and present the full significance of the approach in principle, not to present one move in the hope of dragging the Cabinet into implementing it and thus, in fact, create a situation after which, almost automatically, the second phase comes without matters being debated by the Cabinet in all their depth, with all their significance.

[Ronen] Sir, Defense Minister, thank you very much. Well, I repeat, the Cabinet decision speaks of a phased IDF withdrawal from Lebanon. The final phase will be the international border. Sixteen ministers voted for the decision: all the Alignment ministers, Minister Burg from NRP, Minister Peretz of SHAS, Minister Yosef Shapira of Morasha, Ministers David Levi and Gid'on Pat from the Likud.

Only six ministers were opposed: Shamir, Arens, Corfu, Qatzav, Sharir, and Nisim.

At this stage, we will go back to the Mabat studio from the Prime Minister's Office.

Levi: Decision Not Partisan

TA142046 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister David Levi this evening was conspicuous in voting for a phased withdrawal according to the proposal of the prime minister and the defense minister. He is now at the Prime Minister's Office with our correspondent Yoram Ronen. We go there for an interview with Mr David Levi:

[Ronen] Mr Deputy Prime Minsiter, you have voted today against the view of most Herut members in the Likud. Have you tried to make them share your view?

[Levi] In this matter the voting was not partisan and it should not be partisan. I said that as of the first day — and Mr Shamir repeated this — this is not a matter of ideology or principle. The Cabinet should not be divided in two camps on security affairs. Therefore, each should make a decision based on his own conscience. It was this conscience which guided me when I supported the Peace for Galilee campaign, when I was convinced that it was necessary to deliver a blow to the PLO, to destroy its military bases so that it would receive a fatal blow. This goal has been attained, and it has received the blow. It has been removed from Lebanon; as a military power, it has been defeated; as a political power it has been severely damaged.

As for today's decision, everyone had strong hesitations; I did too. Out of the same awareness I had at the time, I undertook today to support the proposal which was brought forward by the

General Staff and which actually expressed the view of all security branches. It was not a rash decision; serious work preceded it with good teamwork. The Cabinet devoted four sessions to it. All assessments of all security branches were brought before it in two sessions of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee and in the two Cabinet sessions. I want to say that this was not an easy decision; it was a difficult one. But the important question was the general aspect of Israel's security, whether the IDF should be a mobilized force when every day more attempts are made to attack it; whether it should only defend itself, and for how long, and what its goal is.

[Ronen] Today, as well, two soldiers were killed.

[Levi] I regret this, as we all do. But we should see the price, and also question our goal. The security of our settlements obliges all of us, and therefore the IDF will take all necessary measures to guarantee the welfare and the security of the Galilee residents. The entire Cabinet stands behind this in the decision to withdraw from Lebanon in the manner which was proposed and presented by the security forces. We had to make this decision; there was no way to avoid it. It will be done in phases. Each phase will be examined. The Cabinet will also decide on the timing of each phase, so that we can react whenever necessary. I think that today's decision should not be interpreted as the Alignment's stand or the Likud's stand. I repeat, in such a fundamental, national matter as security, we are all united, and that is how I felt at this Cabinet meeting and in the preceding sessions, and in this spirit I decided to vote.

[Ronen] Mr Deputy Prime Minister, I thank you very much.

Peres Interviewed on Decision

TA150637 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister Shim'on Peres by anchorman Shalom Qital in the studio and by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer in the prime minister's residence in Jerusalem — live]

[Text] [Qital] Good morning, Mr Prime Minister.
[Peres] A very good morning to you, too.
[Qital] Will our soldiers be back home by this coming summer?
[Peres] I would not like to engage in prophesying, but this is indeed the intention. The General Staff Command has submitted an operations plan, and the Israeli Government adopted a political resolution. The lines of both these bodies unite and are crystal clear, and the intention is truly to withdraw.

[Qital] Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer is with the prime minister in his residence in Jerusalem. Good morning, Shim'on.

[Schiffer] Good morning, Mr Prime Minister. Why did you not try to reach a compromise last night. After all, you are members of a national unity government, so why did you not come out with a statement together with the Likud?

[Peres] This is not a party convention, nor is it a coalitionary topic. We are dealing with human lives, with the security of the Galilee, and the well-being of the IDF. Consequently, a real decision is necessary. The problem in Lebanon is not relations between parties; it has to do with Israel's security, and here it is necessary to reach the right decision.

[Schiffer] Mr Peres, Israel is gradually getting out of Lebanon and severing ties with it. In the past, it presented red lines vis-a-vis the Syrians, and pledged commitments to minorities. Is Israel bidding farewell to its friends in Lebanon — Christians and other minorities? Has Israel no further red lines vis-a-vis the Syrians? What do we want from the Syrians?

[Peres] We will care for those who were and remain our friends. But the friends who have actually crossed over the line from a permanent relationship with Israel to total submission to Syria — to them we owe nothing of substance.

[Qital] Mr Peres, you had supported that part of the Peace for Galilee operation that was directly connected to peace for the Galilee. How do you think peace for the Galilee will now be guaranteed?

[Peres] The decision adopted last night does not contradict the decision made when the Peace for Galilee operation started. Do not forget that, at the time, it was meant to be a limited operation in both time and area, and involved a 40-km penetration into Lebanon by the IDF to clear the area of a hostile and terrorist infrastructure. The IDF was to return home immediately. In fact, yesterday's decision brings us back to the original decision made at that time.

It is now necessary to remember one fundamental thing, which so many people tend to forget — the decision adopted by the Cabinet yesterday refers to the future, not to the past. It is impossible to forever keep putting the cart before the horse. We considered the predicted dangers to the IDF in Lebanon in the future and the chances of reaching an alternative arrangement; the decision was made on the basis of these considerations.

[Schiffer] Can you tell the inhabitants of the northern settlements this morning that their security will also be guaranteed within the framework of the new arrangements the Cabinet will now take action to prepare fully?

[Peres] The Cabinet's job is to take care of every region every morning, not only this morning. There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that the Cabinet and the IDF will do their best to guarantee security for the Galilee. There are a few possible defensive methods. The Cabinet was presented with four alternatives, and we chose the one which, in the opinion of the General Staff Command as well, was the lesser of the evils, and was considered relatively the most optimal.

[Qital] Mr Prime Minister, I hesitate to juxtapose the cost in lives with this, or the economic issue of maintaining the IDF in Lebanon — all of which you had considered. To what extent do you believe that this heavy burden which we have shouldered for over 2 years will lessen, now that the IDF will begin its withdrawal to the international border?

[Peres] Your definition of it involving a price is correct, too, although it is not the main thing. There are at least two matters above economic considerations, the first being immigration, and the second being security. Here it is necessary to adopt decisions on a substantive basis. In other words — to deal with immigration on its own basis; and with security through security considerations alone.

[Schiffer] Mr Peres, deliberations begin this morning on the incorporation of the United Nations in the arrangements. What will you authorize the United Nations to do today, as distinct from what Israel was prepared to allow it to do before, and how do you envision the picture in regard to the incorporation of the United Nations?

[Peres] When we discussed security measures, the United Nations was one of the components — albeit not the exclusive one, and certainly not the major one. In effect, we guaranteed all the security measures, minus one factor which we could not promise because it was not up to us, and that was the deployment of the United Nations. The proposal submitted by the Lebanese — that the United Nations deploy south of the Al-Litani, up to our border — lacked reference to the real problem in the area. If the United Nations replaces the IDF in the areas the IDF will evacuate, we will welcome this.

[Qital] Thank you very much, Mr Prime Minister. And thank you very much, our political correspondent, Shim'on Schiffer.

Shamir: Decision Can Be Amended

TA150702 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0510 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Interview with Vice Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, in his residence, by 'Oded Ben-'Ami, and from the studio by anchorman Shalom Qital — live]

[Text] [Qital] Good morning to you, Mr Vice Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

[Shamir] Good morning.

[Qital] Why did you oppose the decision? Has the time not come to leave Lebanon and return to the international border?

[Shamir] I could not support a decision that involves an Israeli withdrawal to the international border, but which lacks minimum security arrangements for the Galilee settlements.

[Qital] Do you think that the minimum will not be observed with the means that the IDF and the Israeli Cabinet will employ?

[Shamir] I said it does not include minimum security arrangements. Look, the Lebanese clause in the basic guidelines of the national unity government includes two components — an Israeli withdrawal, or pullout, from Lebanon, and security arrangements for the Galilee settlements. The decision made last night includes only one component — the withdrawal. It includes very little on security arrangements.

[Qital] Our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami is with Vice Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Good morning, 'Oded.

[Ben-'Ami] Good morning. Mr Shamir, the prime minister has just said that in fact the Cabinet heard from members of the General Staff Command and the Defense Ministry about a number of alternatives, and the one adopted by 16 members of the Cabinet yesterday was the least of all evils. You and your colleagues — another five ministers — expressed a position citing security reasons. Today, after this decision, you have to cooperate — or assume responsibility — with a government which did not accept your security position. How do you feel in the wake of the decision adopted last night which was not according to your way of thinking?

[Shamir] I am worried. I have no doubt about the IDF's ability and desire to care for the security of the Galilee settlements, but this desire or readiness was there 2 and 1/2 years ago as well, and they were still unable to prevent katyusha volleys from falling, or avoid the need for the IDF to enter Lebanon. I would not like such events to recur. At the same time, my colleagues and I will try, during the months up until the final withdrawal to the international border, to make sure that everything that can be amended will be, and that the security of the settlements and the inhabitants of the Galilee will be guaranteed, as far as possible, within the framework of this resolution, which I believe is unbalanced.

[Qital] Mr Shamir, although this is a decision in principle, it still carried an air of certain partisan polemics, with the Alignment voting in unison. However, in the Likud, some nevertheless voted with the Alignment, even people considered to be your partners — such as members of SHAS and Morasha — went along with the Alignment. What is happening? Is there no unity of thought in the Likud bloc?

[Shamir] I said a priori that this question is not ideological, but that it is a purely security problem, which should be determined solely by security considerations. This is what I said, and the Likud members and supporters acted accordingly. Every one voted according to his conscience and belief. Others may not have acted exactly in this spirit.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Shamir, this is, however, one of the most cardinal decisions — if not indeed the most important one — adopted by this unity government. Had everything been done to reach this decision unanimously? Had there been an attempt to coordinate between the Alignment and the Likud on this matter?

[Shamir] I did a lot. What we in fact proposed last night was not precisely in line with our desire, or our assessment. We suggested that the Cabinet decide on the first step within the framework of this plan, and then assess things, weigh them, and decide on the next steps. In other words, our proposal did not conflict with the overall framework that had been decided on. I think it could have been possible to reach this decision unanimously.

[Qital] Mr Vice Prime Minister, allow me one more question. Your statements indicate that you do not believe that the Galilee's peace will be preserved. But if so, one of the cornerstones of the Likud policy over the past few years will have been removed.

So you opposed this decision, and yet continue to remain in the national unity government — whose importance I do not deny. Nonetheless, how can you remain in it, once such an important pillar has been removed from the edifice?

[Shamir] I would like to hope that this pillar has not yet collapsed. During this period, as I said, up to the moment when the plan that has been decided on is implemented, we will do our utmost to guarantee the safety of the Galilee settlements. I hope we will succees somewhat in correcting what was decided on last night.

[Qital] Mr Shamir, I thank you, and thank you too, 'Oded Ben-'Ami.

Schiffer Views Cabinet Division

TA150725 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0520 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer, in front of the prime minister's residence in Jerusalem — live]

[Text] Last night's Cabinet decision constitutes a compromise between those who favor an immediate withdrawal from Lebanon and those who are afraid of the long-term effects of such a withdrawal. This decision is ultimately also a political compromise between the various components of the government, although the Likud appears to have emerged divided. Last night, it was decided to leave Lebanon and return to the international border Israel shares with that country, but the use of the term deploy along that border rather than withdraw to that border is one of the compromises — in terms of phraseology.

The heads of the security establishment and the various security branches presented the ministers with the alternatives over a few days, each in his own style and way. One of the IDF generals even expressed the fear that a continued IDF presence in Lebanon might one day turn into something that will resemble the presence of the Soviet occupational army in Afghanistan. The ministers were presented with different, conflicting perceptions of the departure from Lebanon. Minister 'Ezer Weizman remarked on this sarcastically, saying: I hope that such a comprehensive debate was also held when the decision to enter Lebanon was made.

Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin pushed for the resolution on the basis of the defense establishment's proposal. Moshe Arens minced no words in explaining his opposition to this plan. He said: This is a dangerous gamble.

One minister remarked on that, saying that this word is only used in Las Vegas. Arens replied: There, too, one can win and one can lose.

The surprises came from the Likud camp. Yitzhaq Shamir and Moshe Arens, as we have said, expressed firm opposition to the proposal. David Levi sided with the supporters of the withdrawal, saying this is not a matter of ideology. Minister Moshe Qatzav exerted real efforts to bring about a compromise, and sounded sad last night after the vote. The Alignment knew it would enjoy a majority, which is why it made no effort to make a gesture to us, he told me.

The greatest surprise came from SHAS representative Rabbi Yitzhaq Peretz. After he heard the chief of staff and the other experts, he voted for the motion. In a spirited speech, Rabbi Peretz compared our stay in Lebanon to the U.S. stay in Vietnam. Rabbi Peretz said: Churchill promised his people in World War II that after the blood, the sweat, and the tears, there will come a victory; yet what can we promise the soldiers in Lebanon? Only blood, sweat, and tears.

Thus the Cabinet decided on the beginning of the phased IDF withdrawal from Lebanon, without setting dates, but with a commitment that this will be done within a few months.

As for the future repercussions, if, God forbid, the terrorists try to harm the northern settlements this evening, the security establishment will in the future find it easier than at any time in the past to obtain approval from the political echelon to operate in Lebanon. The responsibility undertaken by the ministers last night is binding. As Amnon Rubinstein said: If the PLO tries to operate against the northern settlements, we will act immediately, and the IDF will again be what it used to be — offensive, initiating, reacting, and mobile.

Israel will forfeit the level of its contacts with the Lebanese minorities, and this too will have its effects, but it will return to the main path of the attempt to make peace with its neighbors — the Arab countries — and not to be friendly only with minorities.

Sharon Opposed Withdrawal Decision

TA150843 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0525 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Text] With reference to Ari'el Sharon in the United States, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres turned down his request that his vote against the decision be counted in absentia from New York. If he were in Israel, he would have voted against the Cabinet decision. From the courtroom in New York, Sharon maintained telephone contact with Vice Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, and asked him to announce, in his name, that the Cabinet's decision is unacceptable to him. This morning, Sharon told our correspondent Razi Barqay that the Cabinet should have acted differently:

[Begin Sharon recording] My voice was heard among those who opposed the decision, not because I am in favor of remaining in Lebanon, but I think the principles previously decided on by the Cabinet should be followed, which is why I placed my vote with the group of ministers who expressed deep concern over the failure to adhere to the principles previously decided on by the Cabinet. [end recording]

Sharon later refused to say whether he has an alternative proposal to the decision adopted by the Cabinet. He only added that his position on this is known to the prime minister, the vice prime minister, and the defense minister.

Eytan on New Deployment Line

TA150803 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Text] Former Chief of Staff Refa'el Eytan believes that the new IDF deployment line between the Al-Zahrani and Al-Litani Rivers will be convenient and easier to maintain than the Al-Awwali line. He told our military correspondent that a few weeks before he retired from his post as chief of staff, a proposal he had raised to redeploy along that line after the withdrawal from the Al-Shuf mountains was rejected. Refa'el Eytan nonetheless noted that a withdrawal from the current line is an irreversible move, even if the terrorists return to the area. Even if the UN force deploys north of the new line, the IDF will not be able to operate against the terrorists.

HADASH Wants Unconditional Withdrawal

TA150808 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0640 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Text] Here is one more reaction to the Cabinet's decision on Lebanon: The HADASH executive stated that the decision will not put an end to the war and the deaths of victims who die there for nothing. The HADASH communique states that the decision only reflects a compromise within the Cabinet, and creates the illusion that it will put an end to the war. HADASH says that what is necessary is an immediate, unconditional withdrawal from Lebanon.

Prime Minister Peres on Return to Al-Naqurah Talks

TA141558 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1535 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Text] Jerusalem, 14 Jan (ITIM) — This week Israel will return to the Al-Naqurah talks in another attempt to attain an agreement with the Lebanese, but if these talks continue to be void of content and purposeless, there will be no point in continuing them beyond this. This was said by Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, who was the guest of the Israeli Foreign Press Association at a luncheon held today in the Ramada Renaissance Hotel in Jerusalem.

Mr Peres said the positions of the Lebanese representatives to the talks were influenced by pressure from Syria, who is opposed to any agreement with Israel. He added that as long as the Lebanese do not change these positions, it will be impossible to hold the talks and come to an agreement. The current Israeli attempt to resume the talks in Al-Naqurah is aimed at resolving the question of whether there is any point and purpose in these talks.

However, the prime minister explained, Israel did not go into Lebanon from the start to stay there forever, and it will make every attempt to get out of there even without an agreement with the Lebanese. "The time has come to decide to get out, for there is no reason for which we need to remain in Lebanon," Mr Peres said.

He added that the first stage of the withdrawal will apparently be implemented within the next few weeks. "If the PLO tries to establish bases in southern Lebanon, jeopardizing the security of Israel's northern border, Israel will use any measure required, implementing its right to self-defense, to foil and thwart the PLO's intentions," the prime minister said.

However, Mr Peres said the Cabinet is currently discussing the required moves for a phased withdrawal to guarantee three things — bringing the IDF home; guaranteeing the safety of Galilee; and giving other countries breathing space to reach an agreement, if they so desire. Peres repeated his view that the withdrawal would be implemented in phases over 6-9 months.

The prime minister emphasized that Israel is making efforts to guarantee that after the withdrawal there will be no bloodbath in Lebanon and "there will be peace in Galilee, peace in Beirut, and peace in Damascus." However, if we cannot do this, Israel will in any event implement its decisions. "If we are unable to guarantee that there will be no bloodshed in Lebanon, must we remain there forever and ever?" the prime minister asked. He pointed out that the difficulty embodied in the situation in Lebanon originates in the negative Syrian influence over the Lebanese leadership against any agreement or arrangement, as well as in the sharp differences of opinion among the Lebanese sects.

Mr Peres expressed the view that the southern areas of Lebanon which are to be evacuated by IDF forces will be calm, because the local inhabitants are most interested in this.

UN's Urquhart To Try Salvaging Military Talks

Urquhart Arrives

TA141736 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1719 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Text] Ben Gurion Airport, 14 Jan (ITIM) — UN Under Secretary Brian Urquhart arrived in Israel tonight aboard a Swissair plane in a bid to salvage the Al-Naqurah talks. At the airport he was welcomed by Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche, Brigadier General Dov Si'on and UN commanders in the area headed by General Erskine. Urquhart's special aide, Jean-Claude Aime, who has lately been shuttling between Israel and Beirut on this subject, was also present.

Mr Urquhart said that he has come to see how the United Nations can promote the Al-Naqurah talks. However, he added that he is unable to say more prior to holding talks in Israel, Beirut, and some other places. This evening he will talk with David Kimche and tomorrow he will meet with Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir prior to his visit to Beirut.

Mr Kimche said that Israel wants to hear what the United Nations intends to do and what he can obtain in Beirut.

Rabin Briefs Urquhart

TA150756 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Text] The defense minister this morning explained to UN Under Secretary General Brian Urquhart the details of the Cabinet's

decision on the phased IDF withdrawal from Lebanon. Minister Rabin emphasized that Israel will be prepared to help the UN force deploy in the areas that will be evacuated by the IDF, but that this matter is negotiable.

This morning, our political correspondent reported that the UN secretary general will arrive in our region next month, to accelerate and conclude arrangements on the deployment of the UN force.

No Decision on Al-Naqurah Talks

TA150834 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Text] The defense minister this morning suggested to the UN under secretary general that the UN force deploy in the areas that will be evacuated by the IDF in southern Lebanon in 5 weeks. Yitzhaq Rabin explained that in Israel's opinion, the United Nations will have a significant role to play in the first stage of the withdrawal. The chief of staff said that the IDF will be prepared to help the United Nations deploy.

UN Under Secretary General Brian Urquhart emphasized that there is a basic problem in deploying UNIFIL in the areas that will be vacated by the IDF, because this is not included in its terms of reference. He said he will approach the UN secretary general, and through him the UN Security Council, to discuss an amendment to UNIFIL's mandate.

Urquhart is currently leaving for Beirut, and will return to Israel in 2 days to confer once again with the defense minister.

Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that Minister Rabin will also brief the U.S. ambassador today on the Cabinet's decision. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that right now, no one knows whether the Al-Naqurah talks will resume on Thursday. This depends on the kind of answers Urquhart will bring from Beirut.

Christian-Shi'ite Contacts Prior to IDF Withdrawal

TA141250 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 14 Jan 85 p 2

[Report by Yehuda Tzur]

[Text] The Christian leaders in Southern Lebanon have been maintaining feverish contacts over the past few months with senior representatives of the Shi'ite sect to arrive at an agreement, before the IDF withdrawal from southern Lebanon, which would prevent a bloodbath in the area.

Nizar Najarian, the chairman of the Free Christian Parliament of south Lebanon, told our correspondent yesterday that so far there is no agreement, but the contacts with the Shi'ites are continuing in a friendly atmosphere and with the aim of keeping the peace in southern Lebanon when the IDF withdraws. He said the goal of the contacts is to arrive at formula that would permit the inhabitants of southern Lebanon to coexist and prevent terrorist infiltrations which would cause IDF retaliatory actions.

It has also been learned that the contacts also cover the Al-Kharrub, north of the Al-Awwali, through talks with the Druze, but the main focus and efforts are taking place in southern Lebanon. Over the past few weeks, many talks have been held between Christian and Shi'ite leaders in Jannin and Sidon. The Christian leaders are well aware of the fact that they constitute 15 percent of the population of southern Lebanon, and they aspire to reach an agreement with the moderate Shi'ite faction, including contacts with the Amal organization.

Christians Fear IDF Withdrawal From Southern Lebanon

TA141700 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Text] Southern Lebanese notables will meet with IDF officers in southern Lebanon to hear details regarding the IDF redeployment. Fears of such a withdrawal are mainly voiced by the Christians, who fear interfactional clashes in southern Lebanon. From there, our correspondent in the north, Menahem Horowitz, phones us:

[Horowitz] In southern Lebanon one can clearly see that people are worried. It is a decision of the Israeli Government, they say, but do not forget that for us such a decision means life or death. Francis Rizq, former spokesman of Major Sa'd Haddad and presently a Christian leader in southern Lebanon, says: We rely on Israel.

[Begin recording] [Rizq] We have relied on Israel for a long time. Major Haddad used to say: If history does not rescue us, geography will.

It is not our affair; it is an Israeli affair and we rely on the Israelis. We hope that they know this and take our feelings into consideration.

[Horowitz] What are your feelings?

[Rizq] We have succeeded in building a bridge of love between the two peoples, and we want this to continue in one way or another. [end recording]

[Horowitz] As noted, the Lebanese are also awaiting Jerusalem's decision. Christian leaders said that their fellow Christians will withdraw with the IDF to areas that will remain under exclusive IDF control in southern Lebanon. The Christians, mainly those living in the Jazzin and Al-Kharrub area, fear interfactional clashes in the areas evacuated by the IDF.

Anti-Israel Forces Organizing in Sidon

TA141028 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Jan 85 p 2

[Text] Metulla — Considerable numbers of Amal Shi'ite militiamen, Communists, and Palestinian terrorists have been organizing in Sidon recently, security sources have told *THE JERUSALEM POST*. Sidon, located within Israeli-controlled territory in South Lebanon, is mainly under the supervision of the South Lebanese Army [SLA]. The security sources said Sidon is again becoming a centre from which attacks against the Israel

Defence Forces and the SLA are perpetrated throughout South Lebanon.

Two IDF Soldiers Killed in Southern Lebanon

TA141750 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1747 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Text] Today two IDF soldiers were killed in southern Lebanon and seven soldiers were wounded. Four local inhabitants were also wounded. The families have been informed. The IDF spokesman has reported that this occurred in two incidents; in one, a roadside bomb was used against an IDF vehicle, and two soldiers were killed and two wounded. About 2 hours later another roadside bomb exploded near the same place and five soldiers were wounded in that attack. The wounded were transferred to a hospital. One soldier is seriously wounded, one has moderate wounds, and five are slightly wounded.

Curfew Imposed Near Tyre

TA142116 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 13 Jan 85

[Text] The IDF has closed off the traffic in the Shi'ite villages area east of Tyre where two incidents, in which two IDF soldiers were killed and seven were wounded, occurred earlier. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that in the villages of (Arzi) and (Azrayra), a curfew was imposed and large forces of the IDF and the army of southern Lebanon are in the area.

Reportage on 'Who Is Jew' Law Controversy

Peres Opposes Change

TA131253 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 13 Jan 85

[Excerpts] The prime minister is to meet this afternoon with members of the Knesset religious lobby to discuss the proposed amendment to the Law of Return, the so-called "who is a Jew law". Energy Minister Moshe Shahal, just back from a tour of the United States and South America, has drawn up what is being termed a compromise formula on the issue. Meanwhile, reformed and Conservative American Jewish organizations have started an information campaign against changing the Law of Return. The amendment would recognize only conversions performed according to Halakah Jewish law. More from reporter Patricia Golan:

[Begin recording] The religious parties in the Knesset consider the issue not only one of religious principle, but basic to the coalition agreement, one of the reasons why they agreed to join the government. The religious factions believe they have a parliamentary majority for the legislation. Recently the Morasha Party threatened to leave the coalition over the issue, and voting on the amendment has been repeatedly delayed.

Meanwhile, representatives of the non-Orthodox streams in the diaspora have stepped up their campaign to prevent the passing of such a law. The leader of Conservative Jewry, Rabbi Gershon Kohen, of the Jewish Theological Seminary, this morning cabled the prime minister, saying that a change in the law would be a disaster for world Jewish unity. Professor Kohen said it would cause an open break between Conservative Jewry and the State of Israel. Prime Minister Peres has said he opposes any change in the status quo which would create a rift between Israel and the diaspora.

A meeting with the Knesset religious lobby is scheduled for late this afternoon. Incidentally, the Prime Minister's Office has denied a report last week that a compromise proposal giving increased powers to the rabbinate has been put forward by the prime minister. Until Minister Shahal reveals his proposal, no details of any compromise can be assumed. [end recording]

Peres' Proposals Rejected

TA140753 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Jan 85 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Sara Hong]

[Text] The "who's a Jew" controversy is to be put to a preliminary vote on Wednesday in the Knesset, after the religious parties last night rejected all of Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' compromise proposals as well as his appeal that he be given another four weeks to devise a solution acceptable to all sides.

This emerged after a meeting between religious MK's [Knesset members] and Peres, Vice Premier Yitzhaq Shamir, Energy Minister Moshe Shahal, Transport Minister Hayim Corfu, Education Minister Yitzhaq Navon, and Justice Minister Moshe Nisim.

Peres proposed the establishment of a committee which would come up with a solution in one month. MK Avraham Shapira of Agudat Yisra'el replied that the religious parties would agree to give the committee a chance, but only after Wednesday's vote, and not before the first legislative step had been taken.

Rafi Edri, Alignment Knesset whip, tried to convince the religious MK's to agree to only have the matter debated on Wednesday, with the vote put off for at least a month. This, too, was rejected, but consultations on this were continuing late last night.

The religious parties now fear Peres will invite a no-confidence motion from his one-time Alignment partner MAPAM on Wednesday to foil the religious motion. A no-confidence vote takes precedence over any other topic on the Knesset agenda.

Another fear is that Peres will seek to reply to the "who's a Jew" amendment proposal himself on Wednesday. He could then ask for a few weeks postponement to prepare his case.

Sources in both Labour and the Likud expressed fear yesterday for the coalition future should the religious alliance's motion be defeated and trigger a partial walk-out. This would deprive the Likud of allies within the coalition, weaken its position in the government, and result in the disintegration of the national unity government.

No Coalition Decision on Vote

TA141650 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Excerpt] The proposal to amend the "who is a Jew law" is on the Knesset agenda. The coalition executive today did not decide how the coalition members should vote in the debate on the proposal for amendment of this law. This means that each faction will decide how its members vote, or that they will be free to vote as they want. The chairman of the coalition executive assesses that the decision will fall by a margin of only a few votes.

Peres Comments on Issue

TA141826 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres commented today on the "who is a Jew" issue. He was speaking at a news conference in Jerusalem with the Foreign Press Association.

[Begin Peres recording] I don't know exactly what is the balance of votes in the parliament. By and large, I would say it's half and half, and nobody can give a learned guess who the winner will be in this vote, if it will take place on Wednesday. I do not see how it's going to affect the Cabinet, because the Cabinet, as such, is not proposing the bill and doesn't face the consequences of the vote. The problem that worries me really is the division in Jewish life between diaspora and Israel, and my efforts are aimed to keep our people together and united. [end recording]

Zvili, Bar'am Oppose Establishing New Settlements

Zvili Against Settlements

TA111021 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 11 Jan 85

[Text] Nisim Zvili, head of the Jewish Agency Settlement Department, opposes the decision to establish six settlements beyond the green line, saying that this constitutes succumbing to Gush Emunim. He told our correspondent Shalom Oren that it may very well be that there are no funds for establishing these settlements. The figure quoted for the initial stage is $15 million. Zvili believes that even if the settlements are established, there are not enough settlers to populate them.

Bar'am Opposes New Settlements

TA131214 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 13 Jan 85 p 1

[Text] Knesset member [MK] 'Uzi Bar'am, the Labor Party general secretary, is demanding that the belt be tightened also in settlement affairs. He called on all parties who demand expansion of the settlements to not think only of their internal political needs, but mainly of Israel's difficult economic situation.

While the Israeli Government is taking pains to raise funds for the absorption of the Ethiopian Jews and to find a solution to the unemployment problem in development towns, there is no room for the establishment of exhibitionistic settlements which have no connection whatsoever with Israel's security.

MK Bar'am said that he is not ignoring the clauses in the coalition agreement dealing with this issue, but he nevertheless expressed his amazement that Likud leaders, whose supporters live in development towns, could be blind to the serious consequences of this decision.

Approval of Economy Stabilization Law Urged

TA141703 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Text] The prime minister and the finance minister are demanding that the coalition members in the Knesset Finance Committee work toward the approval of the economy stabilization law to enable the state budget to be cut. In a meeting with the coalition representatives, the prime minister stressed that without a cut in the state budget, the achievements of the package deal will be wasted and the economy will deteriorate. It is inconceivable, he said, that coalition representatives would act in opposition to the government.

The finance minister said that delaying the budget cut will jeopardize the existence of the government. He warned the committee members that if an economic disaster occurs, none of them would be able to say he was not guilty.

U.S. Grants $1.8 Billion in Military Aid

TA111111 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Jan 85 p 2

["Exclusive" report by U.S.-based correspondent Tzvi Bar'el]

[Excerpt] Washington — The U.S. State Department has approved the allocation of $1.8 billion in military aid — entirely as a grant — to Israel for the year 1985-86. Of this sum, $400 million is slated for the development of the Lavi plane according to the following breakdown: $250 million to be spent in Israel, and $150 million in the United States (as was the case in the last year as well).

The final approval to the aid allocation will be given when President Reagan signs the proposal. Afterwards, the proposal has to be ratified by the Congress.

Israel had requested the amount of $2.2 billion in military aid, but Israeli circles said that this was actually a bargaining position, and they are satisfied with the amount they have obtained, which is $400 million higher than the sum received last year. Circles knowledgeable on the discussions for military aid reported that it was the U.S. State Department which supported the allocation of $1.8 billion, whereas the U.S. Treasury only wanted to grant an allocation of $1.7 billion.

Concerning civilian aid, it is not yet clear how the U.S. Administration will present its request to the Congress, because there is strong dissatisfaction with the way in which Israel is implementing its economic measures. It is therefore expected that in the first Congressional session, military aid will be addressed separately from civilian aid.

$500 Million Trade Accord Signed With Colombia

TA130719 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Jan 85 p 2

[Text] Israel and Colombia signed an agreement in principle on Friday whereby Israel will buy $200 million worth of Colombian coal over the next five years and Colombia will purchase $300 million worth of Israeli goods and services, the Energy Ministry reported. Energy Minister Moshe Shahal signed the agreement in Bogota following meetings with the Colombian president, energy and defence ministers, and the heads of the Colombian Carbocoal Corp.

Weizman To Join Peres on Tour of Italy, Romania

TA150616 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Text] 'Ezer Weizman will accompany the prime minister on his visit to Italy and Romania at the end of next month. Our political correspondent has learned that this decision was made during a conversation between the two men, to manifest Peres' determination to incorporate Weizman in the political decisionmaking process.

Poll Reveals Emerging Political Radicalization

TA111226 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 11 Jan 85 pp 1, 11

[Modi'in Ezrahi poll]

[Text] If elections were held today, Rabbi Meir Kahane's KAKH list would receive five Knesset seats. This is the main finding of a Modi'in Ezrahi poll conducted by Dr Mikha'el Etgar and scientifically overseen by Prof Yohanan Peres at the request of *MA'ARIV*.

The survey involved 1,229 interviewees representing the adult civilian Jewish population of Israel, excluding kibbutzim and the inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and the Golan Heights.

An analysis of the findings indicates a trend of radicalization in the political system, with the Citizens Rights Movement [CRM] and MAPAM gaining power on the one hand, and Kahane and his party on the rise on the other.

The poll shows that December marked no change in the Alignment's power (52 seats), while the Likud continued to suffer a drop (from 34 to 29 seats).

Apparently, only approximately 60 percent of those who voted for the Likud in the last election would repeat their vote (compared to 80 percent among the Alignment voters).

An analysis of the voting trends of the Likud "dropouts" indicates that this party would lose approximately three seats in favor of the Alignment, approximately two and a half seats to KAKH, and approximately one and a half seats to Tehiya. Approximately four seats remain in a suspended status (where the voters either have not decided, or refused to divulge the nature of their vote).

An analysis of this picture shows that since the national unity government was established, the trend has been to leave the Likud, and that this trend leans more to the right than in the direction of the Alignment. It is believed that the reason for this inclination is that in its current situation, the Likud can hardly satisfy the requirements of its voters — who regard it as a ruling party — or the expectations of those who view it primarily as a party representing a firm national ideology.

Where does Kahane's power derive from? In addition to the seat his past voters grant him, as stated before, another two and a half seats are supplied by former Likud voters and by a combination of other party voters (Alignment, Tehiya, TAMI, and SHAS). It should also be pointed out that Kahane received another half a seat from new voters who were probably too young to vote in the last election.

Following is the breakdown of the survey's results:

Dec 84 forecast/ Nov / Oct / currently in Knesset

Alignment (Labor and Yahad)
52 / 52 / 50 / 40
Likud
29 / 34 / 34 / 41
National Religious Party
4 / 4 / 4 / 4
Morasha
1 / 1 / 1 / 2
Agudat Yisra'el
2 / 2 / 2 / 2
SHAS
4 / 3 / 3- / 4
OMETZ
— / — / — / 1
TAMI
1 / 1 / — / 1
MAPAM
2 / 1 / 2 / 6
Tehiya
6 / 6 / 7 / 5
CRM
5 / 4 / 2 / 4
Shinuy
3 / 3 / 6 / 3
HADASH-Progressive List for Peace
6 / 6 / 6 / 6
KAKH-Kahane
5 / 3 / 3 / 1

Total
120 / 120 / 120 / 120

Agreement Reached With Egypt on Delegation Heads

TA141354 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 14 Jan 85 p 1

[Report by *DAVAR* political correspondent]

[Excerpt] Jerusalem sources have reported that Israel has responded to the Egyptian request and agreed that the two

countries' delegations will be headed by senior officials from the Foreign Ministries, not by military personnel. The Israeli delegation will be headed by the deputy director general of the Foreign Ministry for Middle East affairs, Tzvi Qeydar.

The Egyptian Foreign Ministry is due to give an answer this week to the Israeli proposal to hold the talks in Beersheba at the beginning of next week. Yesterday Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche met in Jerusalem with the deputy director general of the Sinai Multinational Force and Observers [MFO], who is visiting the area and already held a meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, a few days ago. Kimche praised the MFO's methods of handling matters in Sinai to date.

Little Concern Over U.S.-USSR Middle East Talks

TA141454 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 14 Jan 85 p 2

[Report by political correspondent Refa'el Mann]

[Text] In contacts between Washington and Jerusalem, it has been explained that the proposal to hold meetings between the superpowers on areas of dispute around the world was raised by the United States approximately a year ago, when the United States explained that a dialogue with the Soviet Union on nuclear arms reduction was not enough, but should also include Soviet activities in other fields.

The Americans explained they are currently talking only about "exchanges of views" between the powers, intended to improve the atmosphere in relations between them, not about a new initiative, a political move, or negotiations. In Jerusalem, however, we are reminded that U.S. initiatives during the 1970's were born from a U.S.-Soviet dialogue, and so Israel will have to follow the talks closely to ensure that it will not be surprised by new U.S. trends.

Israel hopes to receive from the United States a full report on the talks which U.S. officials will hold with their Soviet colleagues on the situation in the Middle East, following the decision on such a meeting agreed on in the Shultz-Gromyko talks.

Political sources in Jerusalem said Israel will follow the talks to ensure that there is no change in Washington's position on the peace process.

According to the sources, Israel is not worried by the decision to hold contacts between Washington and Moscow on the Middle East, after the Americans clarified that they are not talking about the initiation of negotiations or the formulation of a joint peace plan.

AL-SHA'B on Palestinian-Soviet Talks

JN131530 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 8 Jan 85 p 1

[Editorial: "Moscow Talks"]

[Text] The talks a PLO Executive Committee delegation is currently holding with Soviet officials in Moscow acquire great importance at this critical stage of the Palestine question. These talks, which are being conducted by a delegation consisting of Executive Committee members elected in the 17th PNC session in Amman, indicate the continuation of Palestinian-Soviet contacts, an expression of bilateral relations and a prominent pillar of the political and diplomatic Palestinian movement.

These talks are of outstanding importance because of the important role the Soviet Union is playing and can play. This big role includes support for the Palestinian people by all means to obtain their legitimate rights. It also includes Moscow's employment of its impact to curb the policies of some Arab regimes that aim at striking at the Palestinian people's unity and independent decisionmaking.

We expect the Palestinian delegation's visit and talks in Moscow to explode what some are wishing and circulating about coolness in Palestinian-Soviet relations. We also believe that the Soviet Union realizes the depth of the Palestinian people's commitment to their organization, unity, and independent decisionmaking — a commitment most conspicious during the 17th PNC session which confirmed our people's adherence to their rights and reaffirmed the PLO's position as a pioneering revolutionary force in the region and the world.

Palestinian Press on Evacuation of Ethiopian Jews

Sanctions Against Sudan Urged

JN131609 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 7 Jan 85 p 1

[Editorial: "The Subject of Ethiopian Jews"]

[Text] The United States has decided to increase its financial aid to Israel in the field of settlement in light of the smuggling of thousands of Ethiopian Jews into Israel with the knowledge, coordination, and financial support of Washington.

In the meantime, U.S. officials express their dissatisfaction with what they term as the leakage of news about the transportation operation, as this will obstruct its completion. This means the United States cares more about Israel's interests than the Israeli Government does.

With all its political and demographic dimensions, this operation is only a new, continuous example of the U.S. policy in the region — a policy that is identical to the Israeli policy aimed at bolstering Israeli superiority over the Arab countries to guarantee continued implementation of the U.S. policy of looting and domination.

Although the adoption of a firm stand against the United States is a constant request and an urgent task to be undertaken by the Arab countries, what is required at this stage is to expose the Sudanese regime's role in this operation and to impose the appropriate sanctions against it.

AL-MITHAQ Raps Numayri's Collusion

JN131643 Jerusalem AL-MITHAQ in Arabic 7 Jan 85 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Numayri and the New Collusion"]

[Text] Ja'far Numayri's regime cringing in Khartoum, which is about to collapse as a result of the continued blows being dealt to Numayri and the pillars of his regime by the Sudanese national movement and the uprising of the Sudanese masses rallying around their vanguard represented by this movement, is well known for its collusion and ties with the imperialist camp led by U.S. imperialism. This regime, skilled in plotting against the Sudanese people and their national rights, using all types of repression against the Sudanese people, and supported by the Egyptian regime, whose nature is well known by our masses and the Arab nation, will never refrain from serving the objectives of the Palestine question's enemies.

This regime's detestable step in facilitating the emigration of Ethiopian Jews to Israel did not surprise us. Instead, it shows the real nature of this suspect role in the Arab region and its service to the objectives of imperialist and reactionary circles. Numayri took this conspiratorial step in return for a U.S. pledge to protect his regime, which will certainly collapse. He was exploiting the famine which Ethiopia is experiencing and the preoccupation of the progressive national regime in Ethiopia with ways to solve or alleviate this problem.

The Numayri regime's step is a crime against the Palestinian people because it was taken at the expense of the Palestinian people's national rights, sacrifices, and accomplishments in achieving those rights. This detestable crime will certainly lead to increasing the settlements, supporting Israel's military power, and increasing the number of the Israelis. This has taken place not only at the expense of the Palestinian people, but also at the expense of the entire Arab nation. Numayri's conspiracies and those Arab reactionaries, no matter how fierce they may be, will never affect our people's determination to regain all their inalienable national rights despite these reactionary circles and their crimes. Victory is always for peoples and defeat is for the conspirators and collaborators with the imperialist camp, the enemy of peoples.

OAU's Peter Onu Leaves for Sahel Visit

AB141401 Paris AFP in English 1318 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Text] Addis Ababa, Jan 14 (AFP) — Organization of African Unity (OAU) interim Secretary-General Peter Onu has left on a tour of Sahel states to look into the famine situation there, the OAU Secretariat announced here today. His tour was expected to include visits to Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Senegal, the Secretariat said.

Mr Onu, who has already toured the famine-stricken regions of northern Ethiopia, is expected to report back to OAU member countries on his findings.

The 20th OAU summit in November set up a special famine emergency fund to help Africa's 27 worst drought-hit countries, appealing to member states to contribute generously. The OAU has already pledged to give the Sahel countries 110,000 dollars and Mozambique and Chad 50,000 dollars each, after an initial grant of 75,000 dollars to Ethiopia.

The Secretariat also announced that wives of African diplomats in the Chinese capital of Beijing had sent a cheque for 536.27 dollars to the special fund.

An estimated 150 million people are believed to be facing starvation throughout the African Continent.

OATUU Leader Accuses CIA of Seeking Dismissal

EA130011 Nairobi KENYA TIMES in English 12 Jan 85 p 1

[Mitch Odero article]

[Text] The secretary general of the Accra-based Organization of African Trade Union Unity [OATUU], Mr Dennis Akumu, said in Nairobi on Thursday that there was an organised campaign supported by U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (C.I.A.) to dislodge him from his position.

In an exclusive interview with the *KENYA TIMES* during a stop-over in Nairobi on his way to Dar es Salaam, Akumu said the campaign was also aimed at the president of the organisation, who is a Libyan, and other executives of OATUU.

I have even been offered jobs so that I could quit the organisation and I have wondered why in a world with high rate of unemployment should someone be so generous to offer jobs I have not asked for, he said.

Saying he had received a copy of a document being circulated in the continent and abroad on CIA and its alleged plot to have him thrown out of the organisation, Akumu said a number of issues raised in the document had already been confirmed.

He said there had been incidents such as unearthing of U.S. funds in Togo meant to buy U.S. influence in the trade union movement. Things have been happening to confirm the validity of some of the issues raised in the document, he added.

He said his organisation was currently investigating reports in the document to the effect that an operation Africa had been launched by the CIA to control the trade union movement in the continent.

If our investigations confirm the existence of operation Africa then we may have it as an item of agenda for the Lagos congress for discussion and action, he said.

The Lagos congress of OATUU is scheduled for next month, during when elections for the organisations leaders will take place. Akumu said he would defend his seat.

He said: If we find that international organisations such as International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) are being used as a vehicle by CIA to infiltrate and confuse African trade unions, then we will demand at the next Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Labour Commission that this be placed on their agenda for action.

We will ask for a collective decision to be taken by African labour ministers against ICFTU, he added. ICFTU had been mentioned in the report as being used to ensure U.S. influence in the African labour movement.

He expressed confidence that the African trade union leaders supported him on a stand that their trade union movement should not be involved in the superpower cold war.

I know that they (African trade unionists) don't want their organisations to be an appendage of the United States, and, therefore, I am convinced that anyone supported by the CIA-organised campaign will be disappointed during the elections at the Lagos congress. I am confident that a campaign by any superpower will only assist us at the Lagos meeting, he said.

He said U.S. State Department and its trade unions have many ways of assisting African workers if they are really interested in African workers. After all, the United States is responsible for the poverty in Africa because they are depressing the prices of our raw materials, he added.

They have for instance refused to sign the Law of the Sea because they want to exploit our marine wealth without control while their aid to Africa has been declining over the years, he said.

The U.S. Embassy in Nairobi had reacted sharply to the report on CIA dismissing it as a fabrication and disinformation contending that the sources were not plausible.

Afsat Draft Agreement Ratified 14 January

AB150754 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Text] Ange Francois Barry-Batesti, minister of public works, construction, posts, and telecommunications, at his 2001 Postel Building office [in Abidjan] this afternoon ratified the draft agreement relating to the project on launching of the African Satellite, Afsat. When the project is completed, it will enable member countries of the African Postal and Telecommunications

Union [APTU] to improve their communications network. The draft agreement was signed in the presence of the APTU's general secretary, Mamadou Simpore, representing the chairman of the body. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Barry-Batesti pointed out the significance of the Afsat project.

[Begin Barry-Batesti recording] Thanks to the Afsat project, we will have a high-quality commmunications network within a few years that will enable us to communicate on an intracontinental level as well as within our respective countries. I am thinking of the possibilities this system will offer for interurban and rural telephone, television, and data transmission traffic.

Mr Secretary General, your organization is to be commended for taking the initiative in 1980 when it launched the first studies on the possibility of establishing an African satellite and insisting that this should be fully under the control of African states themselves. On behalf of the president of the Republic of Ivory Coast, I endorse this initiative. I wish a great success to the upcoming African telecommunications satellite. [end recording]

After the signing ceremony, our correspondent met with the director of the National Telecommunications Office, Aka Boni, who gives us the following details:

[Begin Boni recording] You know Africa is a huge continent and we have great difficulties in establishing commmunications links between the various points of the continent. At present, to call somebody in Kenya from Ivory Coast, we have enormous difficulties in using the classic systems, that is the microwave link or the radio link. The quality is very poor and the capacity very limited.

On the contrary, a satellite is not affected by the distance. In fact, a telecommunications satellite is placed at about 36,000 km from the Earth, and from that distance it is easy to cover the continent. Henceforth, telecommunications links inside Africa will be enormously improved because from that distance the satellite can cover the whole continent. So we will be able to establish communications links between any two points of the continent, which is not possible now through the classic transmission systems. [end recording]

ALGERIA

Tunisian Foreign Minister Arrives in Algiers

LD141219 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Text] Tunisian Minister of Foreign Affairs Beji Caid Essebsi arrived this morning in Algiers. He was met at the airport by Brother Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Politburo and minister of foreign affairs.

LIBYA

Proposed Cypriot Embassy Rejected by Jamahiriyah

NC140738 Nicosia O AGON TIS DHEVTERAS in Greek 14 Jan 85 p 1

[Excerpt] Libya has rejected a suggestion by the Cypriot Government for opening an embassy in Tripoli, accrediting to Tripoli a Cypriot ambassador who is already serving in another country, or for opening a commercial bureau. This is a pressing matter because of Turkey's strong presence in Libya, the Turkish Embassy in Libya has 50 employees, and because of the strong economic interests between Cyprus and Libya.

The matter will be clarified over the next few months because, despite Libya's negative attitude, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs insists on its proposal for opening an embassy or, as a last concession, for the presence of a charge d'affaires.

Rejection of Embassy Denied

NC150813 Nicosia TA NEA in Greek 15 Jan 85 p 1

[Text] It is absolutely untrue that the Libyan Jamahiriyah does not accept the accreditation of an ambassador in Tripoli.

This statement was made by the government spokesman yesterday in response to a report in *O AGON TIS DHEVTERAS*. The press report must have been false because, as the government spokesman has stated, the Cyprus Government has not asked the Libyan Jamahiriyah for the accreditation of an ambassador in that country.

Tripoli: Sudanese Refugees 'Pouring Into' Libya

LD111718 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0405 GMT 11 Jan 85

[Text] A large number of Sudanese citizens have been pouring into the Jamahiriyah, fleeing from hunger and the oppression of Numayri's regime and its police apparatus. Medicines and meals are being provided to more than 1,500 Sudanese citizens at a special camp prepared to shelter them. A team of Libyan doctors is treating those who are suffering from illness and exhaustion as a result of their long 40-day journey across the desert.

The Sudanese citizens said that other groups are on their way to the Jamahiriyah and they are suffering from the difficulties of the road, hunger, and illness. They spoke to a JANA correspondent who visited the regions adjoining the Sudanese border about their tragedy, confirming that they escaped from Sudan not only because of the starvation but also because of the deteriorating political, economic, and social conditions there.

MOROCCO

Communique on 12 Jan Military Action Issued

LD142028 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Text] The Royal Armed Forces have inflicted heavy losses in men and equipment on the mercenaries in last Saturday's engagement. The Ministry of Information has issued the following communique:

The engagement, which took place between units of the Royal Armed Forces and mercenaries on 12 January 1985, began at 0700 and ended at 1600 the same day, after which the enemy fled in the direction of Algerian territory.

The enemy forces, estimated at three motorized battalions and supported by a T-55 tank battlion, and a (TMC) armored battalion, launched a large scale operation against the back-up points in the security wall north of Wadi Tunishat, a distance of 8 km from the Algerian border.

After fierce battles, the enemy fled leaving on the battlefield 66 dead and 6 T-55 tanks, 2 TMC tanks, and 6 burned out vehicles. Twenty-five soldiers of the Royal Armed Forces were martyred and 48 others injured. An F-1 plane was shot down by a missile launched from the territory of a neighboring country.

Energy Minister Meets With Libyan Counterpart

LD142302 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Text] Minister of Energy and Mines Moussa Saadi held an enlarged working session this evening at the ministry's headquarters with Fawzi al-Shakshuki, secretary of planning and acting secretary of petroleum in the Libyan Jamahiriyah.

The talks reviewed previous meetings between Morocco and the Jamahiriyah, strengthening cooperation between the two countries in the sphere of oil prospecting within the framework of the African Arab Union. The two sides also discussed the marketing and distribution of oil products in the two countries and the steps to form a joint Moroccan-Libyan company for oil exploration.

SUDAN

Vice President, Delegation Return From Tanzania

JN141429 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 14 Jan (SUNA) — First Vice President 'Umar Muhammad al-Tayyib and his delegation returned home this afternoon after a 3-day visit to Tanzania. During the visit

Al-Tayyib met with Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere and Vice President Ali Hasan Mwinyi.

Numayri Receives Message From Egypt's Mubarak

NC131813 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1712 GMT 13 Jan 85

[Text] Khartoum, 13 Jan (MENA) — Sudanese President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri has received a message from President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. The message included an exchange of information and views on the latest developments in the Mideast in light of President Mubarak's recent meeting with King Husayn of Jordan in Al-'Aqabah and the beginning of the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue.

Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and head of the presidential office for political affairs, made this statement to journalists following his meeting today with President Numayri. Al-Baz conveyed the message from President Mubarak to Numayri.

In his statement which was broadcast by Omdurman Radio, Dr al-Baz said that the message also dealt with the negotiations on Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon. It also strongly emphasized the integration operation between the two parts of the Nile valley, and the mutual desire to go ahead with the implementation of projects beneficial to both countries.

Dr al-Baz said that he found President Numayri's views to be identical with his brother President Mubarak. He added that during his meeting with President Numayri, agreement was reached on some specific steps that the executive institutions in Egypt and Sudan will be requested to apply and put into force.

PLO's 'Arafat Cables National Day Greetings

JN141538 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1505 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Text] Khartoum, 14 Jan (SUNA) — Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestine revolution forces, has expressed his deep appreciation to President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri and the Sudanese people for Sudan's firm support for the struggle of the PLO and the Palestinian people to achieve their firm rights to return, self-determination, and establishment of their independent Palestinian state on their national soil, with Jerusalem as its capital.

In a cable to the president on the 29th anniversary of independence, Yasir 'Arafat asserted the PLO's continued concern to strengthen fraternal and cooperation relations between the Sudanese and Palestinian peoples.

In his cable the Palestinian leader said: On this national occasion, our Arab Palestinian people express hope that your fraternal people achieve progress and prosperity under your wise and brave leadership.

The PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of our people, expresses to Your Excellency and to your fraternal people its appreciation for your firm support for our struggle.

SSU Praises People's Armed Forces Role

JN141624 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1510 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Text] Khartoum, 14 Jan (SUNA) — The SSU General Secretariat issued a statement today praising the Armed Forces' role in confronting the enemies of the homeland. The statement says: In accordance with the decision adopted in its sixth session yesterday, the General Secretariat praises the Armed Forces' role in confronting the enemies of the homeland and in their just struggle to protect national unity and the homeland's achievements.

The statement adds: The SSU General Secretariat greets and praises the People's Armed Forces and their pioneer role in protecting and defending the revolution, in their brave assumption of national and revolutionary responsibilities, and in safeguarding the homeland. The General Secretariat also praises their daily bravery in their battles against the outlaws who oppose the people's will and unity and who agreed to become tools in the hands of the homeland's enemies and covetous forces.

The SSU General Secretariat asserted that this brave role played by the People's Armed Forces every day reinforces their position at the head of the revolution factions. On this occasion, the General Secretariat praises the leader president's initiative to solve differences through dialogue, not fighting, because arms do not solve a cause and because dialogue is the method capable of solving problems through logic. It is a shame to waste citizens' blood and souls in clashes.

The SSU General Secretariat hopes that the brothers who brandished arms will resort to reason, respond to the leader's initiative, and not miss this opportunity.

Transport of Falashas Seen as 'Hostility' to Arabs

EA111717 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Jan 85

[Text] A responsible source in Khartoum has said that the operation undertaken by Ethiopia to transport the Falasha Jews to Israel exposes its hostility towards all Arabs and the Arab cause. The source stressed that Sudan will receive refugees from Ethiopia without paying attention to their religions or (?pressures). It will allow such refugees to travel to any country they want without any restrictions.

Sudan still keeps its doors open to Ethiopian refugees and will share its food with them and will give them shelter. They have absolute freedom to remain in Sudan or travel anywhere they wish.

AFP: Release of Hostages in South Delayed

NC121524 Paris AFP in English 1510 GMT 12 Jan 85

[Text] Paris, Jan 12 (AFP) — The release of four hostages — two Frenchmen, a Briton and a Kenyan — held by guerrillas in southern Sudan since February last year has been delayed because of "difficulties", but will probably take place by the end of the month, a reliable source said here today.

The four, Frenchmen Yves Parisse and Michel Dupire, Briton Ian Bain and Kenyan Gwynn Morson, were seized by guerrillas of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) from the huge Jonglei Canal project, where they were working for a French consortium.

On December 19, the SPLA said in a letter to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE in Addis Ababa that the four might be freed "before Christmas" on December 25 for humanitarian reasons. This position was echoed three days later by Steven Baak, the SPLA's representative in London.

However, "minor" last minute difficulties arose, and the release has now been delayed, the source said, without specifying the nature of the problems. The rebels have been negotiating in Addis Ababa with officials of the French-led International Construction Company (CCI) consortium responsible for building the canal.

Meanwhile, Mr Baak said in a telephone conversation today with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that the consortium had failed to fulfill an agreement to supply "certain equipment" to the SPLA in return for the release of the four.

"They are all right," Mr Baak said of the four hostages, although he refused to give any date for their release.

Work on the 360-kilometre (215-mile) canal, a major irrigation project in the Kongor region, has been halted since the kidnapping.

SPLA Radio: 92 Soldiers Killed in 10 Jan Attack

EA111540 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 11 JAN 85

[Excerpt] Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] forces in Equatoria under the command of (Otur Nikwak) annihilated and dispersed enemy forces in Lakoro village, 21 miles from Torit on the Juba-Torit road yesterday, 10 January 1985. The enemy forces were identified by captured soldiers as the headquarters of the 11th Brigade, a total enemy strenght of about 200 men.

The enemy forces had camped to establish a garrison in Lakoro, where they were attacked by the SPLA forces while building huts and digging trenches. The enemy was completely taken by surprise and were dispersed by the SPLA forces, sustaining heavy casualties. Ninety-two enemy soldiers were killed and buried by the SPLA forces in Lakoro. The rest of the enemy soldiers scattered into the surrounding forest, while others ran to Juba and Torit on foot.

In the attack the SPLA lost nine heroes killed in action and eight heroes wounded in action. The SPLA forces captured three MP machine guns, two British Bren light machine guns, 71 G-3 automatic rifles, 60 boxes of G-3 ammunition, and one Austin truck which was destroyed. The registration of the Austin truck is 7,741 and the [words indistinct] Amir al-Jibal.

SPLA Radio Denies Government Claims on Casualties

EA112152 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudaense People's Liberation Army in Arabic 1330 GMT 11 Jan 85

[Excerpts] Listen all Sudanese. We in the Sudan People's Liberation Army [SPLA] and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] always tell you the truth, because we know that lies are of no use to us. We engage the regime's army and it runs away from us. Why should we tell lies? At the same time we are very tolerant of the Khartoum general command's lies. We let them tell lies. We let them tell many lies, and then we bring you the facts.

What we want to say now is that Numayri and his deputy 'Umar al-Tayyib are killing the SPLA with their tongues. First, they say we have killed 600; then they say we have killed 800 and inflicted many losses on the SPLA, especially in recent days. They also say that they have captured weapons. Now gentlemen, if Numayri is telling the truth, why do he and his fellows not mention the name of a single person they have captured? Why does he not mention the serial number of even a single weapon captured? My friends these are all lies. We tell you the truth.

Yesterday and the day before, Numayri said something that was broadcast by London about the successes of his army. He said that they have inflicted many losses and killed 800 people in Bentiu and another 1,000 fled into the river and were eaten by crocodiles. My friends, now look, 800 killed and 1,000 ran into the river. Come on now, what kind of talk is this? This is what Numayri is saying. The south is full of water, there is no desert. Surely, some of the 1,000 could swim. It is not possible that they all died. He also said that the crocodiles ate them. We can imagine this river to have many crocodiles, but there cannot be 1,000 crocodiles. These are lies.

The truth is with us. The SPLA people have been talking about the Timsah [crocodile] Battalion. It was this battalion that ate Numayri's army. It was not the SPLA that walked into the river and got eaten by crocodiles. Numayri's words mean just the opposite. All that Numayri says is lies. You will see and you will hear. The things we tell you are the truth.

SPLA Radio: Rebel Forces Repulse Enemy Attack

EA121519 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 12 Jan 85

[Text] The SPLA forces of Thunder Battalion under the command of Major Benjamin (Markor) repulsed yet another enemy attack on their base at (Tarkeke) on 9 January 1985. The enemy soldiers who came in 13 vehicles, which included Magirus trucks, APCs, tanks and lorries, were forced to retreat to Juba after sustaining an undetermined number of heavy casualties. Thunder Battalion, ready for the attacking enemy force, destroyed two tanks, one Magirus and one lorry. The enemy ran back to Juba in the remaining nine vehicles. The SPLA forces suffered 7 heroes killed and 12 wounded in action. The commander in chief of this action sent a message of congratulations to the commander of Thunder Battalion in (Tarekeke), Maj Benjamin (Markor), all the officers, NCOs and men of the battalion for yet another victory over Numayri's army.

ETHIOPIA

Ministry Condemns Somali-RSA Military Agreement

EA141848 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Text] Revolutionary Ethiopia has reiterated that the recent secret agreement between the Mogadishu ruling circles with the racist South African regime is an act of aggression carried out against the broad masses of the black South African population in particular and against the whole of Africa in general.

A statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs today noted that the attempt by the Mogadishu regime to deny that it has agreed to provide a military base, as well as aviation services and airport facilities, to the racist Pretoria regime indirectly indicates that the agreement has been carried out. The full text of the Foreign Ministry statement is as follows:

It is recalled that the Mogadishu ruling circles have secretly agreed with the racist South African regime to provide it with a military base, aviation services, and airport facilities. Revolutionary Ethiopia has at the appropriate time condemned this act as an act of aggression against the struggling masses of South Africa and in general against the whole of Africa, and considers it as a stab in the back. This aggression has been condemned for its effects on the ANC and SWAPO, the vanguard organizations which have waged a liberation struggle in Namibia and South Africa against the racist regime. When we look at the mercenary behavior of the Mogadishu regime, its recent agreement with the Pretoria regime is no wonder.

The attempt by the Mogadishu regime to deny that it has agreed to provide the South African regime with a military base, aviation services, and airport facilities indicates that the regime has indirectly agreed that the agreement has been carried out. Hence, the world population was told a half truth. It is not known when the rest of the truth will be revealed. Revolutionary Ethiopia reiterates its unwavering solidarity with the combatants of the ANC and SWAPO and calls on the international community to seriously examine Somalia's right to membership in the OAU and the UN.

Paper on Agreements

EA141243 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0915 GMT 14 Jan 85

[From the press review]

[Text] *ADDIS ZEMEN*, in its editorial under the title "Tell Me Your Friend," has written about the agreement between the dictatorial Siad Barre regime and the racist South African Government on airline flights. This week it was announced from different sources that the Mogadishu government had signed an agreement which allows the racist South African Government airline to fly in its airspace and for the terrorist Pretoria government to have a military base there. This provoked strong opposition from Somali nationals against the Siad Barre regime.

SWAPO and ANC freedom fighters who have been waging an armed struggle in the forests, valleys, and mountains of their country and who have waged a political struggle in international forums for many years opposing the racist South African apartheid policy, have bitterly condemned the action of the Mogadishu government and have appealed to the international community to stand with them.

The Mogadishu regime has been a member of the OAU since it was founded, but it is now an obstacle to the efforts of the organization to isolate the fascist Pretoria regime from the international community for its inhuman actions, its apartheid policy, and its illegal occupation of Namibia. The invitation to the South African dictator Pik Botha [as heard] to visit Somalia secretly by the reactionary Somali Government and the signing of the agreement can only be viewed as collaboration with the continuing anti-people and fascist actions of Pretoria.

Paper Condemns Sudan Over Airlift to Israel

EA111735 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0915 GMT 11 Jan 85

[Text] Under the heading "International Conspiracy," *ADDIS ZEMEN* has this to say: History testifies that there has never been a time when revolutionary Ethiopia interfered in the internal affairs of other countries or took steps which created obstacles to goodneighborliness. Its respect for its neighbors and other governments, its policy of peaceful coexistence, and its sincere feeling of good will toward other countries have been interpreted otherwise by some governments which are nearby and others far away. Destructive acts which violate goodneighborliness have been carried out against it and are still being carried out today.

It is remembered that in a recent statement, the Foreign Ministry noted that the Sudanese Government, in conspiracy with other countries, was making Ethiopians go to Israel illegally and it strongly condemned the action. This action by the Sudanese Government is not only against revolutionary Ethiopia's sincere wish for cooperation among countries and the common progress of peoples, but is an act which should be condemned as it also goes against humanity and is slave trade in the 20th century.

Ethiopia respects the principles of the United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement, and the OAU, and works for their implementation. It also wants others to be governed by these international and regional regulations. The recent action of the Sudanese Government does not stop at violating these principles, but clearly shows that it stands by the side of Zionist Israel, which has been repeatedly condemned by these organizations and the peace-loving people of the world. The fact that people living in border areas in any part of the world leave their country and go to neighboring countries whenever temporary problems of nature arise so as to save their lives with the intention of returning to their birth place when things get better, is something that has always been, exists now, and will in future

It is obvious that as a result of the diverse climatic conditions in our country, our compatriots affected by drought had crossed over to Sudan in search of temporary shelter. The world community should realize that the Sudanese Government's action in collaboration with Israel and other countries of making Ethiopians go to Israel is an act which lacks humanity and which cannot be viewed other than as an act of selling people for personal gain. It is obvious that this recent crime by the Sudanese Government is not a matter of chance happening or coincidence. There is no citizen who will forget that Sudan, in collaboration with international imperialism and reactionary forces, has committed many evils against us from the time we embarked on working to bring about our country's progress, the betterment of the lives of our people, and, in general, to build a society free from exploitation.

This recent action is one part of this old anti-Ethiopian stand. Revolutionary Ethiopia reaffirms today to all peace-loving communities that it will continue to strengthen its policy of peaceful coexistance and goodneighborliness, make its contribution for the common progress of all countries and to bring peoples together. *ZEMEN* ends its editorial by stating that as it does not interfere in the internal affairs of other countries it does not at any time want anybody to interfere in its internal affairs.

KENYA

Transport, Communications Meeting With Tanzania

EA132100 Nairobi KNA in English 1215 GMT 13 Jan 85

[Summary] Mombasa, 13 Jan — A 2-day top level Kenyan-Tanzanian bilateral transport and communications officials meeting opened in Mombasa this morning. The meeting, the first of its kind called to implement the directives issued by the heads of state of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda during the historic Arusha meeting held on 16 November 1983 was described by the leader of Kenya delegation who is also the permanent secretary in the Ministry of Transport and Communications, Mr Peter Wambura, as very important. He noted that it was a forerunner to the ministerial meeting which will also be held in Mombasa next Tuesday, 15 January.

He said after the meeting the people of the two countries should be able to travel by air, road and water in addition to the existing modern telecommunications services and termed this as the most vital achievement there could be.

Mwangale Sees Canadian External Affairs Minister

EA122007 Nairobi KNA in English 0738 GMT 12 Jan 85

[Text] Nairobi, January 12 — Canada has committed some shs. 4,300 million in Kenya since independence and with bilateral aid to development projects two countries more aid would be channeled to the development of energy, agriculture and human resources. [sentence as received] This was disclosed today by the Canadian minister for external affairs, Mrs Monique Vezina, who arrived in Nairobi today to start an official four day visit to Kenya, during which she will visit Canadian-aided projects.

To receive her at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport was the minister for foreign affairs, Mr Elijah Mwangale; Foreign Affairs Permanent Secretary, Mr Bethuel Kiplagat; the chief of protocol, Mr Denis Afande; the Canadian high commissioner to Kenya, Mr David Miller; and other senior officials of the ministry and the Canadian High Commission.

Addressing a press conference at the airport, Mrs Vezina hailed the cordial relations existing between Kenya and Canada, noting that due to such relations Kenya had received substantial aid in development.

She disclosed that during the current fiscal year, her country through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) will disburse some shs. 300,000,000 for the development of Kenya's energy, agriculture and human resources.

Welcoming Mrs Vezina, Mr Mwangale expressed Kenya's gratitude to Canada for her financial assistance covering every aspect of rural development.

He noted with appreciation that about 50 per cent of Canadian aid had gone towards the development of energy, which was an important element in Kenya's future pace of development.

Mr Mwangale said that the 24,000,000 shillings bee keeping project funded by Canada at Kibwezi had almost made Kenya self-sufficient in honey.

He said as the relations continue to grow better, the two countries stand to benefit from each other.

Briefs

New Envoy to Vatican — Nairobi Jan 12, (KNA) — His holiness Pope John Paul II has hailed the assurance of support and co-operation from the government and the people of Kenya for the preparation and hosting of the forthcoming 43rd international eucharistic congress to be held in August this year in Nairobi. The Holy Father also hoped that the eventful and historical gathering in Africa will play a vital role for the church in Africa and for the universal church. Pope Paul expressed these sentiments when he received the new Kenya ambassador to Vatican, Mr Ben Edward Mwangi, for the presentation of his diplomatic credentials recently. [Excerpt] [*Nairobi KNA in English 1216 GMT 12 Jan 85 EA*]

Bangladeshi Envoy Departs — Nairobi, Jan 11: President Daniel arap Moi today at State House Nairobi bade farewell to the outgoing Bangladesh high commissioner to Kenya Mr Abul Bashar Kibria [name as received]. [Excerpt] [*Nairobi KNA in English 0945 GMT 11 Jan 85 EA*]

Mystery Disease Kills Children — Mystery surrounds a strange disease which the deputy provincial commissioner for Northeastern, Mr Alex Njue, says has claimed several lives of children in Garissa District in the past 2 weeks. Mr Njue said the director of medical services, Dr Koinange, said that a team

of doctors would be dispatched to Garissa to assess the situation. Dr Koinange was also said to have confirmed the death reports. It is understood the disease resembles clinical malaria, only that its final stages are swift and fatal. The patients suffer harsh flu, high temperature, vomiting, and diarrhea and die within 48 hours. Mr Njue has ordered medical authorities to urgently investigate the cause of the killer disease or else the situation will get out of hand. [Text] [*Nairobi Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 11 Jan 85 EA*]

SOMALIA

'Official Results' of 31 Dec Elections Announced

EA141856 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 12 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Ahmad Hasan Shaykh, chairman of the central election committee for the national and district assemblies, today announced the official results of the elections held in the Somali Democratic Republic on 31 December, 1984.

The chairman said 4.22 million people voted in the elections, with 4,214,667 yes votes, which is equivalent to 99.86 percent, 4,007 no votes, which is equivalent to 0.09 percent, and 1,990 votes invalidated, which is equivalent to 0.05 percent.

Defense Minister Leaves for Europe, Mideast Tour

EA141935 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Excerpt] The Somali Democratic Republic first vice president and defense minister, Challe Lieutenant General Muhammad Ali Samantar, left here last night on a tour of several countries. The vice president said his first visit would take him to Italy and Turkey, and he would later visit Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE, Qatar, and Oman. He said he would deliver a written message from Challe Mohamed Siad Barre to the leaders of the countries he visits. He added that his tour follows invitations from the various countries, where he will hold talks with senior officials on strengthening bilateral cooperation and relations. He will also brief them on the difficulties that enemies cause the Somali people.

UGANDA

Trade Promotion Agreement Signed With Bulgaria

EA151224 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Text] Uganda and Bulgaria have signed an agreement to promote trade between the two countries. The agreement runs for a period of 5 years and it is renewable. It provides for a committee composed of officials of both countries to meet regularly and review matters relating to the implementation of this agreement.

Under the agreement, the two countries will accord each other most favored nation treatment in all matters of trade. In this way, Uganda's exports to Bulgaria and Bulgaria's exports to Uganda will not be discriminated against. The two contracting parties agreed to exchange trade delegations and trade information and also to have close cooperation between the Chambers of Commerce and other trade organizations. All transactions and services will be conducted in freely convertible currencies. The two countries also agreed to participate in trade fairs and exhibitions organized in each other's territory.

The agreement was signed in Kampala by the minister of commerce, Mr Joel Omara-Aliro on behalf of the Uganda Government and the director general of the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Trade, Mr (Spasov), currently leading an economic delegation to Uganda. The Bulgarian delegation yesterday also met the minister of internal affairs and secretary general of the UPC [Ugandan People's Congress], Dr John Luwuliza-Kirunda, at Entebbe. The meeting was attended by Mr (?Sakleif), member of the National Council of the Fatherland Front of Bulgaria and chief of department of International Relations. Others present were: Mr (Spasov), Mr (?Cherenchev), and Mr (Nedlokov).

Briefs

New Nigeria, Egypt Envoys — Nigeria and Egypt have expressed the need to review culture exchanges with Uganda so as to increase areas of cooperation. The observation was made by the new Nigerian high commissioner to Uganda, Mr (Bernard Namat), and the new Egyptian ambassador to Uganda, Mr Mahmud (Hamdan), when they paid a courtesy call on the minister of culture and community development, Dr James Rwanyarare, at his office in Kampala. [Excerpt] [*Kampala Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 11 Jan 85 EA*]

CHAD

Talks To Be Held With PRC on Reopening Embassy

AB142205 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Text] A Chinese delegation consisting of Mr Zhang and Chen, the first and second secretaries respectively of the Chinese Embassy in our country [as heard], arrived in our capital this afternoon. The purpose of the visit of the Chinese delegation is to examine with Chadian authorities the possibilities of reopening the Chinese Embassy, which was closed as a result of the war imposed on us from the outside, and also to reactivate cooperation between Chad and China.

A Chadian delegation visited China in 1983 and many topics relating to cooperation between the two countries were discussed. Included were the construction of a bridge on the Chari, which links our country to the outside, the construction of the stadium, and the rehabilitation of Bongor (?District) A.

The Chinese delegation will meet the secretary of state to the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation.

The Chinese delegation was welcomed on arrival by Mr (Didi Hisseini), the director of cooperation.

ZAIRE

Decrees on Reorganization of Armed Forces

AB111845 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1120 GMT 11 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Here are the legal instruments authorizing the reorganization within the Armed Forces headquarters as well as regional and district military installations and major units of the Zairian Armed Forces [FAZ].

Decree No 85-003 of 8 January 1985, modifying Law No 77-012 of 1 July 1977 concerning the general organization of defense and the Zairian Armed Forces.

The founding-chairman of the MPR and president of the Republic, considering the Constitution, especially Artcles 35 and 43; considering that Law No 77-012 of 1 July concerning the general organization of defense and the Zairian Armed Forces is modified and supplemented this day; at the proposal of the commissioner of state for national defense and territorial security; decrees:

Article 1. Article 29 of Law No 77-012 of 1 July 1977 concerning the general organization of defense and the Zairian Armed Forces is modified as follows:

The Supreme Council of Defense, under the chairmanship of the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, consists of the following authorities:

— the commissioner of state for national defense and territorial security
— the secretary of state for national defense and territorial security
— the inspector general of the Armed Forces
— the head of the military household [maison militaire] of the head of state
— the chief of general staff of the FAZ
— the chief of staff of the Army
— the chief of staff of the Air Force
— the chief of staff of the Navy
— the chief of staff of the National Gendarmerie
— the auditor general of the Armed Forces
— the commandants of the military regions
— the general administrator of the National Documentation Agency.

Article 2. Article 34 of Law No 77-012 of 1 July concerning the general organization of defense and territorial security is modified as follows:

The secretary of state for national defense and territorial security is the spokesman of the Supreme Council of Defense;

The Secretariat of the Supreme Council of Defense is managed by the head of the military household of the head of state.

Article 3. The post of logistics commander as provided for in Law No 77-012 of 1 July 1977 concerning the general organization of defense and of the FAZ is abolished.

Article 4. A logistics base for the FAZ has been set up. It is charged with the storage and maintenance of supplies for all units of the Armed Forces. It is placed under the command of a senior officer or a general appointed — and if the need arises, dismissed — by the state commissioner for national defense and territorial security. The commander of the logistics base of the FAZ is accountable to the chief of general staff of the FAZ in regard to the functioning of the units placed under his command.

The organization and setting up of the units of the logistics base of the FAZ are fixed by a ministerial decree issued by the state commissioner for national defense and territorial security.

Article 5. The present decree becomes effective on the date it is signed.

Decree No 85-005 [number as received] of 8 January 1985 on the creation of a general inspectorate of the FAZ:

The founding-chairman of the MPR and president of the Republic, considering the Constitution, especially Articles 42 and 45; considering Law No 077-012 of 1 July 1977 on the general organization of defense and the FAZ, notably Articles 17 and 19, orders:

Article 1. A general inspectorate of the FAZ has been created and placed under the authority of the founding chairman of the MPR, president of the Republic, and supreme commander of the FAZ.

Article 2. The mission of the general inspectorate is to keep the supreme commander of the FAZ informed at all times of the prevailing situation in the FAZ.

Article 3. The general inspectorate of the FAZ is headed by an inspector general, a general, or a senior officer. He is assisted in the carrying out of his duties by a deputy inspector general and a group of generals or senior officers called assistants to the inspector general.

Article 4. The inspector general, the deputy inspector general, and the assistants to the inspector general are appointed — and if the need arises, dismissed of their duties — by the founding chairman of the MPR, president of the Republic, and supreme commander of the FAZ, to whom they are directly accountable.

Article 5. Specific duties of the general inspectorate of the FAZ will be determined by a decision of the supreme commander of the FAZ in accordance with the administrative chart attached to the present decree, which comes into effect on the date it is signed.

Decree No 85-006 of 8 January 1985 on the appointment of an inspector general of the FAZ.

The founding chairman of the MPR and president of the Republic, considering the Constitution, especially Article 42; considering Decree No 85-005 of 8 January 1985 on the creation of a general inspectorate of the FAZ, notably Article 4, decrees:

Article 1. General Signa Boyenge Mosambay, regimental No 162260/A, has been appointed inspector general of the FAZ.

Article 2. The present decree comes into effect on the date it is signed.

Decree No 85-007 of 8 January 1985 on the appointment of a deputy inspector general of the FAZ.

The MPR founding-chairman and president of the Republic, considering the Constitution, especially Article 42; considering Decree No 85-005 of 8 January 1985 on the creation of the FAZ Inspectorate General, notably Article 4, decrees:

Article 1. General Bote Nkok'ea Nkanga, regimental No 162271/V has been appointed deputy inspector general.

Article 2. The present decree takes effect when it is signed.

Decree No 85-008 of 8 January 1985 on the appointment of assistants to the FAZ inspector general.

The MPR founding chairman and president of the Republic, considering the Constitution, particularly Article 42; considering Decree No 85-005 of 8 January on the creation of the FAZ Inspectorate General, notably Article 4, decrees:

The following general and senior officers have been appointed assistants to the FAZ inspector general:

Major General Somao Gbogo Mbele, regimental No 002031/E
Brigadier Baruti Milengo, regimental No 002082/T
Brigadier Molamba Pene Lowa, regimental No 105353/H
Brigadier Kundo Kwangele Makutu, regimental No 001816/T
Naval Captain Mondonga Minsiamine, regimental No 105389/V

Article 2. The present decree takes effect when it is signed.

President Mobutu To Visit Egypt 26-29 January

AB141430 Paris AFP in French 1330 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Kinshasa, 14 Jan (AFP) — Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko will pay an official visit to Egypt on 26-29 January, it was learned today in Kinshasa from a very reliable source.

The visit comes in response to one paid to Zaire a year ago by President Husni Mubarak at the start of his tour of Africa, the same source indicated. It was the first time an Egyptian head of state had paid an official visit to Zaire. After Cairo, Mr Mobutu is expected to go on a private visit to Morocco, the same source added.

No details were immediately available on the topics which the two heads of state will examine in Cairo, but a reliable source says that Egypt has announced its willingness to sell arms to Zaire and to sign barter agreements with that country.

BURKINA

1985 Government 'Austerity' Budget Outlined

AB141154 Paris AFP in French 1337 GMT 13 Jan 85

[Text] Ouagadougou, 13 Jan (AFP) — The Burkinabe Government finally adopted the 1985 budget in early January which, at the price of severe austerity measures for the salaried people, marks the government's desire to honor its internal and external debts and stimulate public investment, according to Burkinabe economic sources in Ouagadougou.

According to the same sources, expenditures — which have risen considerably as compared with 1984: 76.67 billion CFA francs as against 62.6 billion in 1984 (1 CFA franc equals Fr 0.02) — will be divided in two: 69.6 billion will go to internal revenue and 7.07 billion to external revenue.

The 1985 current budget is characterized by stability. It has increased from 38 billion CFA francs in 1984 to 40 billion in 1985. To achieve this result, severe measures had to be taken to reduce equipment and especially personnel. These measures were taken in early December in Ouagadougou by an assembly comprising some 2,500 delegates from the provinces, revolutionary defense committees, and trade unions. These were the forfeiting of a month's salary of the highest paid civil servants, of employees in the private sector, and of the Army, a 25- to 50-percent reduction in fringe benefits, and a monthly contribution of 2,500 CFA for students.

In addition, the head of state, Captain Thomas Sankara, announced on 31 December 1984 a 2-year reduction in the retirement age for civil servants (which is henceforth fixed at 53 years). He also announced two social measures aimed at reducing the effect of the austerity measures on the salaried people: They will not be expected to pay rent in 1985, and employees in public and semi-public sectors will receive their end-of-year bonuses.

According to Burkinabe economic sources, the repercussions of the world economic crisis and the rise in the dollar justify the severity of the measures taken, especially as Burkina — a country classified as one of the poorest in the world with a per capita income that did not exceed $210 in 1982 — must face, as all Sahelian countries, a heavy grains deficit of 167,000 tons because of drought.

The same source disclosed the seriousness of the public debt which, while considerably lower than that of many of Burkina's neighbors, has tripled in 4 years. Fifteen billion CFA francs will be used in servicing debts in 1985, a figure, the same Burkinabe sources said, that reflects the desire of the state in the absence of any agreement with the International Monetary Fund to obtain a rescheduling of the public debt, in order to pay both its internal and external debts this year. "We hope, thereby, to restore the country's image in the eyes of all, and gain the confidence of businessmen who have an urgent need to be paid the monies owed them by the state in order to revive their businesses or simply to survive," the same source added.

Finally, the 1985 budget is proof of the state's desire to stimulate public investment: 9.4 billion CFA francs will be invested this year instead of merely 2 billion of last year. Out of this sum, some 5.6 billion will go to the People's Development Program (PPD), which has received a total investment of 160 billion CFA francs in 15 months (from October 1984 to December 1985) for the implementation of major development projects like the Kompienga Dam (in the southeastern part of the country) or the Ouagadougou-Tambao railway line across the northeastern part of the country.

"To maintain steady investment in spite of the overall economic situation is an essential condition for our development and labor," it is said in government circles in Ouagadougou. It is this desire that mainly explains the measure announced on 31 December 1984 by President Sankara, according to which all industrial, administrative, and commercial rent must be paid to the state in 1985. Though the financial impact of this measure has not yet been assessed, various economic sources agree that it is expected to bring in several billion CFA francs to state coffers this year.

Officials Discuss Railway Problems With Ivorians

AB120935 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 12 Jan 85

[Text] The Abidjan-Niger Railway Administration [RAN] is sick. It is sick of a disease which is the first of its kind. In order to find the necessary remedy to this sickness, the cadres and representatives of the railway workers of the corporation met informally to discuss the situation. The meeting, which was described as the first of its kind, enabled the Ivorian and Burkinabe sides to undertake real self-criticism and to suggest cures for the sickness.

To this effect, an extraordinary meeting of the board of directors — a meeting of clarifications and change — will take place on 24 and 25 January in Abidjan. The participants have also agreed, in principle, to hold a seminar. The meeting was presided over by Burkinabe Transport and Communications Minister Omar Diawara. His Ivorian counterpart, Ange Barry-Battesti, also attended. Among the administrators and technicians present was RAN Managing Director Lansina Kone.

Dissident Chadian Leader Brings Message

AB141234 Paris AFP in French 1115 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Text] Ouagadougou, 14 Jan (AFP) — A delegation of the Rally of Chadian Patriotic Forces [RFP] headed by the movement's spokesman, Abdul Kader Yacine, has been visiting Ouagadougou since Wednesday. This was learned on Saturday. During the visit, Mr Yacine will meet Captain Thomas Sankara, the head of state of Burkina Faso and chairman of the National Council of the Revolution, to whom he will deliver a message from Moussa Medella, the RFP coordinator general.

Mr Yacine disclosed that his mission falls within the framework of consultations his movement is holding with African heads of state in order to organize within the next few weeks a meeting regrouping, apart from the RFP, some Chadian forces opposed

to Hissein Habre's regime and the Transitional National Union Government of Chad (GUNT, headed by Goukouni Oueddei). According to Mr Yacine, these forces are the Democratic Union for Peace (UDP), Action Committee for Unity and Socialism (ACTUS), Mahama Abba's First Army, and Dr Awad Moctar's Chadian Liberation Front (FLT).

Mr Yacine added that the Chadian opposition forces hope to use the French-Libya disengagement agreement to find a peaceful solution to the Chadian problem. The RFP, which was created in Ouagadougou on 12 August 1984, is made up of dissident GUNT leaders.

GHANA

Botchway on Improved Economic Performance

AB112105 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 11 Jan 85

[Text] Ghana registered 5-percent growth in its gross domestic product last year as against only 0.7 percent in 1983, and the projected growth rate for 1985 is 6 percent. The rate of inflation also came down from a 123 percent to an estimated 30 to 50 percent.

Dr Kwesi Botchway, secretary for finance and economic planning, announced this at a news conferencee in Accra today on the performance of the economy under the economic recovery program. The secretary recalled that at the time the program was initiated in 1983, the country was producing just about half of everything it produced in the middle 70's in the export sector and even in agriculture. At the same time, Ghana was importing food, chiefly. Meanwhile, producers were spending more than what they earned through exports because the cedi was overvalued. The only alternative left to the government was to adjust the exchange rate in order to restore the financial viability and competitiveness of the export sector and to restore incentives for local production. Also, a flexible exchange rate policy is now in force because it makes no sense to restore viability and competitiveness and then watch this eroded by inflation. Dr Botchway said the reduction in the rate of inflation can be attributed to the vast improvement in food supply which was not just the result of the rain as some people believe, but also because government brought in fertilizer and raw materials for the production of cutlasses and hoes.

The secretary said, however, that in spite of the positive signs of growth, there are major areas where we need to make improvement. He regretted that lack of enthusiasm on the part of some people in critical places of work slows down the utilization of import licenses and causes disruption in the export program. This causes bottlenecks in imports resulting in shortages that swell inflation. And so long as there is inflation caused by sheer laziness and other factors over which we have control, the exchange rate will continue to be adjusted.

At question time, Dr Botchway stressed the following: The economic recovery program is not an IMF program but simply an IMF-supported program. We drew out the program in the light of our circumstances and sought IMF support and not the other way around, he said. The sacrifices which Ghanaians are now making mean that they are forgoing present consumption in order to release funds to rehabilitate the production and export sector so as to make it unnecessary for Ghana to go back to IMF thereafter. Without the economic recovery program and the chance it gave us to receive external assistance, the suffering would have been greater because Ghana would have had little or no foreign exchange to spend from its own resources.

When people look around and see many rehabilitation projects going on, such as the one for the railways, the cocoa industry, the telephone system, and inputs for the transport sector, they ought to know that these are part of the economic recovery program for which the sacrifices are being made.

EEC Approves Grant To Aid Food Production

AB130917 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 13 Jan 85

[Text] The EEC has approved a grant of $1.86 million to Ghana. The money will be used to buy materials and equipment to assist in increasing food supplies and reducing post-harvest losses. A statement from the EEC office in Accra yesterday said the grant has been approved in the concept of the community's special program against hunger in the world. The program represents the second installment of aid to progress launched by developing countries to tackle the basic obstacles in agricultural development. The program was launched in 1981 and the main aim is to redress the problems caused by desertification in the Sahel countries.

The proposals approved for Ghana were drawn up on the basis of the government's agricultural policy paper for the period 1984 to 1986 and in the light of the recommendations contained in the joint reports by the FAO and the World Food Program on the food and agricultural situation in Ghana prepared in April 1984. In line with this, the project aims at supplying essential inputs for the agricultural sector and materials for the manufacture of handtools and food processing equipment. The project will be coordinated by the Ministries of Finance and Economic Planning and Agriculture. The components of the project comprise the supply of raw materials for the local manufacture of sacks, hoes, cutlasses, and food processing equipment, as well as chemical products for the prevention of post-harvest losses and [words indistinct] requirements in the northern part of the country.

Country To Send 2,000 Tons of Corn to Burkina

AB142016 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Text] A consignment of 40 tons of maize has been airlifted to Ouagadougou. It forms part of a total consignment of 2,000 tons to be sent to Burkina Faso in exchange of cattle. According to the chief of staff at Gonda Barracks, Colonel Ewa, the aim of the exercise is also to help the people of Burkina Faso to cope with the drought and the influx of refugees from worse-hit countries in the Sahel region.

During his recent visit to Ghana to participate in the celebration of the third anniversary of the 31 December revolution, Captain Thomas Sankara appealed to the Provisional National Defense Council to make available to the people of his country some of the surplus food in Ghana. He said the friendship between the two countries should make it possible for Ghana to extend such aid to his country, whose productive capacity has been undermined by drought and other natural phenomena.

Under a barter agreement between the two countries, Ghana has been receiving sheep and goats from Burkina Faso in exchange for salt.

Newspaper To Fight Cultural Alienation of Youth

AB111755 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 11 Jan 85

[Excerpt] The National Youth Organization Commission launched its monthly newspaper, *GHANA YOUTH*, in Accra today. The secretary for youth and sports, Amartey Amarteifio, described the paper as a medium through which the cultural alienation of the youth will be fought. It will also portray the virtues of patriotism, devotion, and commitment so that the youth will be able assess their role as agents in the transformation of the society. He explained that the country's most valuable asset is the youth. In this connection, the Provisional National Defense Council is determined to build a strong and progressive youth as a means of ensuring a prosperous and more thriving future for the country.

GUINEA

Briefs

New Envoy to France — Guinea's new ambassador to France, His Excellency Sekou Dekhazi Camara, has just presented his letters of credence to French President Francois Mitterrand. [Excerpt] [*Conakry Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 11 Jan 85 AB*]

IVORY COAST

Egypt's Ghali on Talks With Foreign Minister

NC141321 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Text] The official talks between Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Ivory Coast Foreign Minister Simeon Ake began in Abidjan today.

After the talks, Dr Ghali said they concentrated on the African and international questions that concern both countries and that the two sides underlined their wish to consolidate the ties of friendship which link both peoples. He said the talks confirmed the identity of views between Egypt and the Ivory Coast on the questions that were discussed. He said diplomatic coordination between the two countries will allow participation in resolving several African problems.

Dr Ghali arrived in the Ivory Coast last night at the start of a tour which will take him, in addition to the Ivory Coast, to Mali and Senegal. He will convey messages from President Husni Mubarak to the presidents of the three states.

Canada To Grant 8 Billion CFA in Assistance

AB141256 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 14 Jan 85 p 5

[Excerpts] Within the framework of its assistance for development, Canada will grant our country a total package of 8 billion CFA francs. A large amount from the money will be devoted to rural development projects, according to the wish of the head of state. This is the significant outcome of the second session of the Ivorian-Canadian Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation held in Abidjan from 9 to 11 January under the joint chairmanship of Simeon Ake, minister of foreign affairs, and his Canadian counterpart, Monique Vezina, the Canadian minister of external relations.

The principal areas of cooperation are agriculture, transport, health, education, mining, women's conditions, industry, and commerce. During the experts' meeting, particular emphasis was laid on the need to strengthen cooperation in these areas. The Canadian and the Ivorian delegations also assessed the progress in the implementation of the projects underway and defined guidelines for future projects.

The Ivorian delegation also expressed the hope that the media exchanges would be stepped up and the cooperation between the Canadian and Ivorian television increased. In this connection, our Canadian guests recalled the existence of a project in the field of communications for Africa worth $10 million (that is about 4 billion CFA francs). The project is designed for communications experts working in the field of training and development. Regarding this project, they said that a representative of the International Institute of Communications will soon visit Ivory Coast.

NIGERIA

Briefs

New Vatican Envoy — A new apostolic pro-nuncio to Nigeria has been appointed by Pope John Paul II. He is Archbishop Paul Tabet. A statement by the Catholic Secretariat in Lagos says the new papal ambassador is due in the Nigerian capital on Sunday to assume duty. Archbishop Tabet succeeds Archbishop Carlo Curis, who served in Nigeria for 6 years before assuming his new post in Jerusalem. [Text] [*Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 11 Jan 85*]

SENEGAL

Finance Minister Announces Increase in Price of Rice

AB121035 Dakar Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 12 Jan 85

[Text] The government has announced that the price of rice, the staple of Senegal's diet, is going up 23 percent. The government has also announced a 5-percent increase in the monthly guaranteed minimum wage and granted a bonus of 1500 CFA francs to all civil servants. The price of rice, which goes from 140 CFA francs to 160 CFA francs, has been announced by the finance minister, Mr Mamadou Toure, in a radio and television statement. The minister of finance has said that this increase falls within the framework of the adjustment measures necessary to revamp the economy. The last increase was in August 1983 and was followed by an increase in cooking oil and sugar during the past few months. Senegal imports around 400,000 tons of rice a year. According to the minister, the coming deficit, to be covered by subsidies, will be about 4 billion CFA francs due to the increase in the dollar's exchange rate.

The price rise was an economic necessity to encourage local rice production and also to help promote consumption of alternatives such as corn and millet, Mr Toure explained. Producer prices for these cereals have already been raised by up to 40 percent. This price rise was expected several months ago, following the negotiations between Senegal and the International Monetary Fund and other financial bodies to restore the Senegalese economy. The simultaneous increase in the minimum monthly wage, which was being set at 31,847 CFA francs (formerly 30,332 CFA francs), a 5-percent increase, should offset the effects of the rice costing more. The average Senegalese family's consumption of rice is about 100 kilos a month.

1984 Grain Deficit Reaches 86,000 Tons

AB121357 Paris AFP in French 1223 GMT 12 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Dakar, 12 Jan (AFP) — Senegal's grain deficit for 1984 reached 86,000 tons. This is contained in a report released yesterday to Senegalese Rural Development Minister Amadou Bator Diop by an FAO evaluation team. The team evaluated the Senegalese production of millet, corn, and paddy rice in 1984 at about 540,000 tons. This figure is slightly higher than that of 1983, but it is still far below the average production in the preceding years.

SIERRA LEONE

PRC Rice Experts To Study Production Feasibility

AB120849 Paris AFP in English 0729 GMT 12 Jan 85

[Text] Freetown, Jan 12 (AFP) — China is to undertake a four-month feasibility study on rice production in Sierra Leone, according to an agreement signed here Friday.

Seven Chinese rice experts are due here within the next three months to conduct surveys in the northern, southern and eastern parts of the country, where there are extensive areas of underdeveloped swamps. Agricultural sources said the Chinese have put a target of 50,000 to 60,000 tons of rice to be produced annually by a company which is shortly to be formed.

Sierra Leone currently imports about 80,000 tons of rice annually at a cost of 30 to 40 million dollars. China already has four major investments in Sierra Leone — including a sugar cane mill, a palm oil project and rubber growing — as well as a number of cooperation agreements with the private sector.

TOGO

President Eyadema Delivers National Day Speech

AB131412 Lome Domestic Service in French 0615 GMT 13 Jan 85

[Address to the nation by President Gnassingbe Eyadema on the eve of National Liberation Day anniversary celebrations on 12 January in Lome — recorded]

[Excerpts] Fellow Togolese, 18 years ago in the face of history we began together a struggle to make our country a new, united, and prosperous nation capable of guaranteeing to all its citizens peace, security, and all the opportunities to achieve their well-being and happiness. This struggle is still going on relentlessly within the government and within the framework of our vanguard party, the Rally of the Togolese People [RPT], which never fails to give the necessary impulse to the political, social, and economic life of our country. [passage indistinct]

A new impetus is given every year to this struggle, which will finally free our nation from all forms of underdevelopment.

After 5 years of activities marked by an affirmed political will and the selfless and responsible participation of our parliamentarians, the National Assembly will soon tackle the second phase of the democratization process of our institutions. The relations of frank collaboration, comprehension, and solidarity which existed between the Assembly and the government, on one hand, and the deputies, the party, and the militants, on the other, have encouraged us to pursue this experiment. But the political will we showed by deciding to return to a parliamentary regime does not make us lose sight of the dissension, anarchy, disorder, and the troubles that the struggle for power and self-satisfaction led the former political parties to create in our country. It is in order to avoid awakening the politics of politicians which nearly caused a civil war in our country that the party, at the first stage of this parliamentary experiment, took the initiative to nominate the candidates to be elected to the National Assembly. In view of the positive outcome of this experiment and the concern to pursue the democratic process begun, during the next parliamentary elections the candidates will fly on their own; in other words, they will go to the electorate who, on their own will and in all freedom, will elect those whom they will judge capable of representing them in the new assembly to defend their interests.

In fact, thanks to this collective consciousness, we can say, thanks to God, today Togo is free from political hatred and antagonism as well as the threats of fratricidal wars which usurp energy, nullify development efforts, open the door for the enemy, and condemn the people to misery.

My dear countrymen and women, our world is infested with one of the most serious crises of our time. The international economic disorder, which spares no nation, has been hitting hard the already very weak economies through the poor sales of our raw materials, the prices of which diminish every now and then on the markets of the developed countries which buy them from us at their own prices, and also through the continued rise in the price of manufactured products which we import. This persistent crisis, which is worsened by the very high interest rates and the rise in the exchange rate of the dollar, has imposed on our countries a rigorous and austere financial policy which we are bound to adopt in order to withstand the growing weight of our external debts.

But, alas, fate has decided to rage against us, adding natural calamities to this economic stagnation, such as drought and epidemics, which have completely disturbed the development programs of young nations and transformed certain parts of the continent into a scorching-hot genuine desert strewn with the carcasses of entire herds which perished, along with some of their owners.

If it is true that charity begins at home, it is also true that nobody can come from outside to help us better than we can do ourselves. This is why we must count on our own strength first in order to bring ourselves out of our state of underdevelopment. Individual efforts made over the past years and which translate our common will to prepare a brilliant future for our future generations, have enabled our country to go through this difficult period without depending much on others. The reforms begun by the government and the adoption of the policy of austerity and rigor were pursued relentlessly. These led to the strengthening of the economic activities of our country. If experts are unanimous in lauding the achievements of our country in this field, it is specifically due to the contributions made by all of us, at all levels, to our collective interest. But we must not rest on our oars. It is imperative to intensify these efforts in order to attain the economic growth that our country is yearning for.

As you can remember, 10 years ago students who finished their studies could directly enter the civil service, which was the greatest employer and toward which the youth first turned for employment. The commercial and industrial sectors as well as the private sector also used the competence of the qualified cadres. Thus, for more than 20 years, the civil service solved the greater part of the employment problems of the youth who arrived on the labor market. But today, due to the constraints imposed by the crisis, the problem has taken a new turn. However, in 1984, in spite of severe measures imposed by the difficult international economic situation, we organized a national program to satisfy some of the youth who were searching for employment. Again this year, if the estimates are correct, we will do the same thing, thus translating the concern of the party and the government to find a solution to the unemployment problems.

To this effect, I would like to request economic operators in the private sector to make an effort in favor of the youth by seizing the opportunity that our economic liberalism offers them to strengthen their role at all the levels of national life in order to create jobs.

The respect and confidence which our country has won today and which are the pride of all Togolese nationals are also the fruit of the atmosphere of peace, security, and political stability which we have established for the past 18 years and which we must preserve, whatever the situation, because it is a determining factor in the frequent choice of our capital as the venue for great international conferences. During the past year, Lome was the venue for three international events. After the festivities marking the centenary celebrations of German-Togolese friendship, our capital held the ECOWAS conference and the African, Caribbean, and Pacific countries-EEC meeting and the signing of the Lome III Convention. These different events, which took place in order, discipline, peace, and security, have profoundly impressed the visitors, thanks to the warmth of your welcome and the efforts made by all of you to make their stay here as pleasant as possible. This sense of hospitality, which is authentically Togolese, must be cultivated and demonstrated always in our contacts with those who, in their search for calm, detente, and security, either for their leisure or for their businesses, chose to come to the new Togo.

It is also our desire to share this climate of peace and security with the other countries of the subregion that led us to conclude on 8 December 1984 in Lagos three agreements on extradition, cooperation in criminal police activities, and mutual assistance in the fields of trade and immigration among Benin, Ghana, Nigeria, and our country, thus concluding our action aimed at ending banditry, criminality, and smuggling, which are sources of trouble and insecurity. This concerted action with our neighboring countries cannot really yield the desired result unless each one of us takes to heart the problems of security and resolutely commits himself, wherever he is, to defending the peace which we have so dearly achieved and which today constitutes the most precious prize won by the revolution which we began 18 years ago.

Eyadema Grants Amnesty to 156 Prisoners

AB112110 Lome Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 11 Jan 85

[Excerpts] The people of Togo are preparing to celebrate the 18th anniversary of their liberation which falls on Sunday, 13 January. It was on 13 January 1967 that President Eyadema decided to take over the reins of state in order to give the people the peace they need to go about their national development duties.

It is in pursuit of this goal of peace for development by all sons of the country that the founding-chairman of the Togolese People's Rally and head of state, General Gnassingbe Eyadema, has decided to grant a remission of sentence to all common law prisoners. Thus, beginning 13 January 1985, 156 common law prisoners will regain their freedom.

Joint SWAPO, ANC Statement on RSA-Somali Pact

EA141302 Addis Ababa Voice of Namibia in English 1900 GMT 13 Jan 85

[Text] The South-West Africa People's Organization, SWAPO of Namibia, and the African National Congress, the ANC of South Africa, on Wednesday called on all peace-loving and progressive countries to condemn the agreement reached between the racist South African regime and the Mogadishu regime. [passage indistinct] The report said that this treacherous agreement was concluded on a recent visit by fascist Pik Botha to Mogadishu.

The joint statement stated that the Mogadishu regime, being a full member of the OAU since its inception in 1963, the OAU has been striving for the total isolation of the fascist regime in Pretoria because of its inhuman apartheid policies in South Africa and its illegal occupation of Namibia. [sentence as heard] The statement also pointed out that the Barre regime is to provide apartheid South Africa with a military and naval base at the Somali town of Kismayu, the act of which is unprecedented step taken by the Mogadishu regime will constitute a direct military threat [words indistinct] and in particular to the countries adjacent to [words indistinct], now is a statement in full.

[Begin (?Fayer) recording] [Words indistinct] and Somalia indicates that the racist South African regime and Somalia have reached an agreement providing the racist South African airline landing and overflight rights in Somali territory. This treacherous agreement was concluded on a recent visit by fascist Foreign Minister Pik Botha to Mogadishu.

The Mogadishu regime is a full member of the OAU. Ever since its inception in 1963, the OAU has been striving for the total isolation of the fascist Pretoria regime because of its inhuman apartheid policy in South Africa and its illegal colonial occupation of Namibia. The oppressed and fighting people of Namibia and South Africa [words indistinct] SWAPO of Namibia and the ANC of South Africa view this clandestine visit and treacherous agreement between Mogadishu and Pretoria as constituting a gross violation and betrayal on the part of the Somali regime of the African cause, particularly of the Frontline States [words indistinct] repeated military and economic aggression by the racist regime as well as an act of (? stupidity) [word indistinct] of the South African and Namibian people.

It is a [word indistinct] violation of the OAU charter, resolutions of the UN and the Nonaligned Movement, which prohibit member states to maintain any political, economic, cultural, or military alliance and collaboration with the Pretoria regime [words indistinct].

It has also been reported that the Barre regime is to provide apartheid South Africa with a military and naval base at the Somali town of Kismayu. This unprecedented step taken by the Mogadishu regime constitutes a direct military threat to the countries and peoples of Africa in general and in particular to the countries and people on the Horn of Africa, East Africa, and the Indian Ocean islands. At the same time it demonstrates the Barre regime's [word indistinct] with the imperious and notorious United States.

South Africa and Namibia [as heard] therefore make an urgent appeal to the OAU, the UN, the Nonaligned Movement, and the Arab League to put pressure to bear on the Barre regime in order to compel it to reverse [words indistinct]. We also appeal to the brotherly people of Somalia to do all they can to help redirect Somalia to live up to its expectations and responsibilities as an OAU and Arab League member and to scrupulously respect their respective purposes and decisions.

It is indeed shocking to note that at a time when the OAU is doing all it can to complete the decolonization of Africa and at a time that Africans are being killed and maimed in Namibia and South Africa by the Botha regime, that African countries should [words indistinct] the agreement signed by the racist South Africa and Barre regimes should be opposed and condemned by all freedom [loving] and progressive countries and peoples of the world over, which are concerned [word indistinct]. [end recording]

That was Comrade (?Ulas Fayer), the chief representative of the African National Congress, ANC, of South Africa to Socialist Ethiopia, reading out a joint statement of SWAPO and Namibia [as heard] and the ANC of South Africa on the treacherous agreement reached by Pretoria and Mogadishu. In this it is shocking to learn that an African country at a time when the OAU is doing all it can to complete the decolonialization of Africa, at a time when Africans are being killed and maimed in Namibia and South Africa, Mogadishu should now come as a [words indistinct] but then this should be condemned and denounced by all progressive and peace-loving people of the world.

ANGOLA

Dos Santos Speech to National Party Conference

MB141700 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0930 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Speech by President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party, at the opening session of the first national party conference at Congress Hall in Luanda on 14 January — live]

[Excerpts] Comrade members of the Central Committee, Comrade Delegates, Your Excellencies members of the diplomatic corps, invited guests, Comrades: The holding of the first national party conference, whose opening session I have the great pleasure of presiding over today, marks an important period in the life of our party. This is not only because this is the first conference of its kind that the party has held since its inception, but also because of the results expected from it. The need for a conference was noted by the first extraordinary party congress as the best way of critically examining our economic, social, political, and military life, thus marking an indispensable period of reflection in our march toward socialism.

With the defeat of Portuguese colonialism, a phase of direct military intervention by imperialism began with the South African Armed Forces. The Pretoria regime encouraged armed intervention in our country. It devoted enormous efforts and

supplies to reorganizing the UNITA gangs, which, in 1976, were on the verge of disintegrating into puppet groups in the service of imperialism and the CIA. Using the illegally occupied territory of Namibia and the common border, the South African Armed Forces transformed the UNITA gangs into an instrument of military destabilization to prevent the social and economic development of Angola. Their characteristic actions were, and continue to be, terrorism against the population, the kidnapping of foreigners, robbery and bomb attacks, and sabotage of economic installations, transportation lines, and bridges, with the objective of creating insecurity and chaos.

Internationally, with the support of the most conservative circles of imperialism, they maintain a mass propaganda machinery for the denigration of the Angolan revolution and its leaders. At home, they try to infiltrate state, party, and mass and social organization institutions. They are promoting a permanent campaign of rumors and lies to promote ideological confusion and demoralize the masses from the tasks of the revolution. The South African regime, with the support of the most reactionary forces of imperialism, organized, armed, and transformed UNITA into its main instrument to destroy the Angolan revolution and to implant neocolonialism.

Circumstances have changed. Methods have changed. However, imperialism's objective in Angola continues to be the same. It is the task of our people to defend themselves with every means at their disposal in the military, political, diplomatic, economic, and other fields. Our revolution has been able to defend itself so far, and we are optimistic about the future.

Our party members are attentive to the maneuvers conducted by imperialism and its agents and opportunists, who are found in any society. The working people, workers, peasants, and revolutionary intellectuals are all behind the party and trust its ability to lead its victorious struggle toward socialism. It is for this reason that we are all here and all the people, from Cabinda to Cunene, are following the events of this meeting. We are meeting to review our achievements and failures and to propose to the congress the guidelines to correct and show ways of reinforcing party work, increase its internal discipline and cohesion, and reinforce national unity and the struggle against UNITA gangsters, who are the main enemies of our people during this period. We have a great responsbility to history and to the Angolan nation.

Dear Comrades, according to our political system, it is the party which rules and guides the state and society. Accordingly, it is the duty of the party to guide and lead the struggle in all sectors of national activity to liquidate or neutralize enemy action and make the objectives of the revolution triumph. Only the party has the structures, the will, and the ability — although they are not the most ideal — to successfully carry out the project of radical transformation of the society inherited from colonialism to one that benefits the most exploited working masses during this tragic period of our history. It is therefore logical to first find the causes of shortcomings that still prevail in our work and in the functioning of the party itself. Following the ratification campaign, the MPLA-Labor Party was endowed from top to bottom with a structure which facilitated its operation.

To fulfill the active role of the party and requirements of our revolutionary process, great priority was given to the improvement of the party organs, particularly with regard to the general regulation of the party activities as a whole and the restructuring of the central, provincial, and municipal apparatus. As a result of this work, the functioning of the Central Committee, the Political Bureau, and the Central Committee Secretariat has been improving substantially. However, there are still shortcomings in the mechanisms of liaison and information at various levels, namely between central and provincial structures, and between them and the grass-roots organizations. Solutions are being sought to gradually eliminate these shortcomings. The vanguard role of the party has been strengthened to aid the functioning of the leading organs at the central and provincial levels.

However, there is concern about the situation in a number of organs and grass-roots organizations that are still unable to exercise their leading role in their respective workplaces, thus creating difficulties in the entire process of the leadership of the party over society and state. It is, therefore, necessary to rapidly establish conditions so that this shortcoming will be overcome by improving the support for the coordination of party cells and party committees at workplaces and supporting their political, ideological, economic, and social working plans, with a view to making them adjust to the reality of problems of the working center.

In this context, while drafting the working plan, the central task to be assumed by the party leadership must be taken into account. The secondary tasks must be planned and carried out without damaging the main task. The tasks that are launched must be concluded, and all those who do not carry out their work must account for their activity. The party must give increasing priority to overcoming theoretical shortcomings and educating its members with a view to encouraging and developing a desire for the study of Marxism-Leninism and other subjects that will enable a proper examination of the problems facing our country. We must not forget that the party is the keeper of the ideology of the proletariat in all places where it is implanted. Every party member must be militantly active within his grass-roots organization. The revitalization of the party cell activity is of particular importance in party work.

The discipline and internal cohesion of party cells must also be constantly reinforced so that the working programs are rigorously carried out. We must not forget that discipline is an integral part of a correct style of work. Discipline at meetings, discipline during decision-making, and subordination to the decisions of the majority and higher organs must be observed by every party member. Only in this way will the party cell be able to fulfill the task of ensuring the modesty of militants and fighting liberalism, individualism, vices, and bourgeois or petit bourgeois mentality.

Another concern is the situation of the party in rural areas. The ratification campaign concluded without fully carrying out the objectives drawn up for the restructuring of the party in the countryside. The criteria established for the selection of members to the party did not facilitate the recruiting of members in rural areas. It was either because the number of agricultural workers was small, the state enterprises were not organized, or the broad

mass of peasants was not organized into production association cooperatives. The regression and disorientation of the cooperative movement, which had already gained a lot of strength in 1978, began with the transfer of the party section on the dynamization of cooperative activities from the party to the state apparatus. The state appratus did not possess the necessary political ability to deal with this important issue, which resulted in the disorganization of the peasants, who were totally dependent on a subsistence economy and exploitation by middlemen, small transporters, traders, and (?small farmers). It encouraged the growth of small rural bourgeoisie and caused great damage to the consolidation of the worker-peasant alliance.

Soon after independence, almost all entrepreneurs abandoned the country. The countryside was in the hands of poor peasants who, like workers in the cities, only possessed their capabilities and their rudimentary tools. The exodus from the countryside made it difficult to organize the peasants, consolidate and expand the socialist production relations, and make real the worker-peasant alliance. The experience by other peoples shows that socialism can only triumph in a particular country when the socialist production relations become predominant in both the city and countryside. If the socialist production relations triumph only in factories and enterprises situated in urban areas, the petit borgeois, and later on the bourgeoisie, will take control of the countryside, and the development of capitalist production relations will threaten the future of the socialist revolution. [applause]

Comrade delegates, invited guests, since the announcement of the launching of the December 1981 campaign for the growth of the party, made in this hall in June of the same year, it was not possible to begin recruiting new members until 1983. This period of time was devoted to the preparation of party cells, some of which were, even then, considered inadequate in carrying out this important task.

In organizational terms, the main problem continues to be the small number of party members compared to our country's population. This has made it impossible for the party to exist, even in vital and priority sectors of our nation's life. Another problem is that the number of workers in the party bureaucracy is very high compared to the number of members of the organization. Obviously, this has been favoring more bureaucratic work rather than political activity. The party growth campaign has partially overcome this situation. We hope that its results will bring about positive and important changes in relations between the party and the people, as well as strengthen the leading role of the party in the main sectors of national economy and culture.

In the coming 5 years, general economic measures that are politically far-reaching must be pursued, leading to the stabilization and subsequent development of the national economy. These measures will constitute the foundations of our economic policy, and will essentially include: 1) Giving absolute priority to defense needs; 2) Improving supplies to the population and attaining greater efficiency at work and production as a precondition for guaranteeing the process of economic and social stabilization; 3) Giving priority and dynamism to economic relations with other countries, to provide equilibrium to the national economy; 4) Perfecting the methods of stabilizing the economy; 5) More efficiently evaluating worth.

In order to apply the abovementioned measures with success, it will be necessary that the different economic sectors readjust themselves and propose goals and indexes for the coming 5 years, within the parameters of the defined economic policy, which will certainly be approved by the second congress of the party.

It is thus necessary that the first national conference launch the active process of dissemination and discussion of the fundamental documents, in order that the society as a whole, and the party members in particular, recognize the justness of the abovementioned measures and the need for profound change in the management and administration methods in our economy and enterprises. [applause]

During this phase of struggle, the party propaganda system must concentrate on the systematic mobilization of the masses for the decisive struggle against ideological manifestations of the colonial society, obscurantism, and idealist conceptions. Through propaganda, the people are enlightened about the party program and the essential tasks to be carried out in the current stage of struggle, namely the triumph over armed counterrevolution, national unity, the victory of the democratic and popular revolution, and the building of a socialist society. In order to carry out effective propaganda work, it is necessary to study the propaganda plan which our class enemy is developing every moment, both internally and internationally.

The ties of friendship and solidarity with the parties and peoples of the socialist community have been consolidated and expanded. Interparty cooperation has been implemented and intergovernmental cooperation has been developing satisfactorily in the economic, technical, and cultural fields. We are also continuing to combine efforts to exploit the existing facilities so as to constantly strengthen the material basis of our relations with the socialist world. In this context, most proper methods are being studied to strengthen bilateral cooperation not only with each of these countries, but also for a broader cooperation within the framework of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance.

The countries of the socialist community, particularly the USSR and Cuba, which have always supported our struggle for national liberation right from the beginning, have continued to remain firmly on our side, even when the external enemy aggressiveness created critical situations.

Cuba continues to make sacrifices, including the lives of its best sons, to assist the Angolan people and their revolution in defending their independence, the country's integrity, and the already achieved gains. [applause] The blood which has been shed jointly by the Angolans and Cubans in this struggle has strengthened the friendship and internationalism binding our peoples and respective parties. The cooperation between Cuba and Angola, as in the past, is not limited to the military sphere. Contrary to what the Western press tries to insinuate, Cuba does not receive any material compensation for its exemplary internationalism in the military field in Angola. [applause] And over a year ago, Cuba decided to stop receiving payments for the services rendered by its civilian foreign aid workers in Angola, as a form of aid to the Angolan people. [applause]

The USSR continues to be main supplier of the weapons and modern military equipment with which our brave fighters have been confronting enemy attacks. [applause] Its specialists have been making an incalculable contribution to the consolidation of the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola and the training of cadres and military specialists at all levels. Our civilian cooperation is always being strengthened further, thus consolidating the traditional ties of friendship and solidarity existing between our peoples and respective parties. [applause]

Dear Comrades, in central Africa our diplomacy has been working toward consolidating and strengthening the climate of understanding and good neighborliness so as to maintain relative security and stability on the northern border, to broaden the relations of friendship, solidarity, and cooperation with frontline and SADCC [Sotheren Africa Development Coordination Conference] countries, and to find a lasting settlement to the problem of Namibia based on the implementation of Resolution No 435/78 and the settlement of the problem of the illegal occupation of southern Angola.

In our specific case, the South African Government, which is less familiar with dialogue and the universal principles of coexistence among nations, has thus far persisted in occupying a part of our territory with its army, despite the agreements reached in Lusaka. There are no valid reasons to justify this act of continued aggression. All facts lead us to conclude that the South African Government intended to use the created hope of peace only to try to break the international isolation in which it has found itself and to ensure the survival of the apartheid system. The new serious peace proposals presented by our government were met with an arrogant response and [word indistinct] of our sovereignty from South Africa. This is inadmissible and contrary to the ethics of international relations. It has once again proved that it is South Africa which is responsible for heightening the current climate of tension in our region, as it is hell bent on eliminating legitimate governments and states of the frontline countries in order to implant their puppets.

We have been asserting that the MPLA-Labor Party and the Government of the People's Republic of Angola define diplomatic work as a complement to political, military, economic, and social activity to ensure the achievement of our revolution's objectives. That is why our diplomacy will continue to be open to sincere and constructive dialogue with the Governments of the United States and South Africa in searching for a just resolution to the problems which we face in southern Angola. Evidently, this dialogue can only be fruitful if [words indistinct] and the desire to take serious decisions prevail to preserve peace, stability, and independence of the peoples of the region without interference in their internal affairs. Outside this framework, we are also not oppposed to the discussion of bilateral relations with the United states.

In general, the political situation on our continent was deeply examined during the last OAU summit, which was an important event in the lives of all African people. Much attention was devoted to the struggle, led by liberation movements, against the last bastions of colonialism and the South African system of apartheid. During the OAU meeting, we associated ourselves with all the voices of independent Africa and expressed our unfailing support for the peoples of Namibia and South Africa and their respective fighting vanguards, SWAPO and the ANC. [applause] We consider the formal admission of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic as a great proof of maturity and an important step toward the peaceful resolution of the Western Saharan conflict, based on the referendum of our continental organization. [appluase] Another situation that dominated the summit was the grave economic situation of the African countries and the natural disasters.

During these almost 10 years of independence, we have already accumulated the necessary experience and skills to correctly appraise our victories and mistakes and thus find the right measures to correct them. It is therefore necessary that each one of us, each party militant present here, makes his best effort to actively participate in the discussion of our problems. Our people once again expect the party to demonstrate its noble traditions of patriotism and revolution, particularly during this historic period that the nation is going through, thus lighting the path that will lead us to peace, prosperity, and the social well-being of the Angolan people.

FAPLA Kills 594 UNITA Men in Huila in 1984

MB140553 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Text] A total of 594 UNITA bandits were killed by the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] in the municipality of Cubango, Huila Province, in 1984. The FAPLA also freed 758 people who had been forced by UNITA to live in the jungle in inhuman conditions, and captured various types of war materiel.

Briefs

Tanzania Envoy Departs — Frederick Rutakyamirwa, Tanzanian ambassador, yesterday bid farewell to Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the People's Republic of Angola, at Futungo de Belas in Luanda. The Tanzanian diplomat concluded his tour as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of his country to Angola a few days ago. [Text] [*Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0700 GMT 13 Jan 85 MB*]

BOTSWANA

Trade Agreement Signed With Czechoslovakia

MB141914 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1610 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Text] Botswana and Czechoslovakia today signed a trade agreement to strengthen their relationship and develop mutual trade. The agreement was signed at the offices of the president by the minister of commerce and industry, Mr Nwako, and Czechoslovakia director general of foreign trade, Mr (Josef Koski). After the signing, Mr Nwako said that Botswana was looking forward to the day when raw materials would be imported from Czechoslavakia into Botswana. The minister said

the agreement was important for as long as it was honored by both countries. On his part, Mr (Koski) said that he hoped the agreement would be followed by economic and technical agreements. The agreement is valid for 3 years with provisions for a new one.

LESOTHO

Jonathan Addresses Rally at Ha Kotola

MB120751 Maseru Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 12 Jan 85

[Text] The prime minister, the Right Honorable Dr Leabua Jonathan, says that he never passes judgement on the performance of his political opponents because only the nation has a right to pass judgement on the performance of individual politicians. Speaking at a well-attended rally at Ha Kotola in (Manka) constituency of the Leribe District yesterday, the prime minister said that his obligation is to give a helping hand to all the categories of society irrespective of their political or denominational affiliations. He said even church leaders, who have now been joined in their chorus by the *LESELINYANA LA LESO THO*, never commended him for any development achievement. He said opposition politicians and church leaders never said a word of congratulations even after the international community awarded him the 1984 Dag Hammarskjold International Peace Price in the field of diplomacy. He said, however, Basotho from all the 50 constituencies sent their letters of congratulations.

The prime minister said that the *LESELINYANA* newspaper has joined the political chorus which claims that the time is not opportune for elections instead of giving advice on ways and means of bringing unity in the LEC [Lesotho Evangelical Church] church. For example, he said the Reverend (Mondoro's) overture to bring about church unity were sneered at. Dr Jonathan said that the opposition is jittery when it realizes that elections are very close, and yet in the recent past it has been clamoring for elections, even claiming that he was afraid to call elections.

The prime minister said the Basotho National Party [BNP] represents Christianity, traditional Basotho customs and culture, and is a standard bearer of development in Lesotho. He said the BNP Youth League is a firm indication that the party is alive and well and that its future is secure. This, he said, is a guarantee that the BNP will not be rooted out, leaving the nation open to enemy infiltration. He added that some people are beginning to spread lies about the youth league simply because it upholds the dignity of the party.

In conclusion, the prime minister said all he asks of the nation is for the reelection of the BNP to power unopposed in all the 50 constituencies by fielding only one BNP candidate in each constituency. The prime minister was accompanied by the minister of works, the Honorable Mr Lekhoana Jonathan.

MOZAMBIQUE

Iran Offers Foodstuffs to Disaster Victims

MB121136 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 12 Jan 85

[Text] The Republic of Iran has offered our country 2 metric tons of cornflour and 4,800 metric tons of canned foodstuffs to support the victims of natural disasters, according to today's issue of *NOTICIAS*.

The gift, which was delivered on Thursday in Maputo by (Ahmad Majmet), charge d'affaires of the Iranian Embassy, was received by Amos Manjane, director of the Department for the Prevention of and Combat Against Natural Disasters.

A delegation from the Iranian Red Crescent visited Mozambique recently and toured some provinces to gather information on the situation created by the drought and terrorists.

MNR Claims 5 Cubans, 112 Government Troops Killed

PA141710 Paris AFP in English 1630 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Text] Lisbon, Jan 14 (AFP) - The rebel Mozambican National Resistance Movement (MNR) said today its forces had killed 112 government troops and five Cubans advisers in operations between January 7 and 10 in three Mozambican provinces.

In a communique released here, the MNR said the Cubans were killed in the seizure and occupation of a barracks at Inhangau, 10 kilometres (six miles) north of the port of Beira, the country's second city, on January 10.

The MNR said the barracks, situated on the coast, was a training centre and a key element in the defence of Beira.

The operations took place in the northern province of Sofala [as received], Tete in the northwest and Sofala in the centre, the communique said. MNR losses were 17 killed and 43 wounded, while 323 government troops were wounded and 39 captured, it added. The communique also said the guerrillas had captured 273 automatic rifles and seven mortars, and destroyed 95 transport vehicles.

NAMIBIA

SWATF: SWAPO Concentrating on Civilian Targets

MB111545 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 11 Jan 85

[Text] SWAPO terrorists are avoiding armed contact with security forces in South-West Africa, and concentrating on civilian targets in their present infiltration compaign. In a statement issued in Windhoek, the South-West Africa Territory Force [SWATF] said that 11 SWAPO terrorists have been killed in skirmishes initiated by the security forces since the beginning of this month.

According to the statement, Ovambo civilians have taken security forces to terrorist arms caches on four different occasions this week. An Ovambo man was injured earlier this week in the district of Nkonko in eastern Ovambo, when one of his livestock detonated a mine.

Five antipersonnel mines were also found by security forces north of Eenhana in eastern Ovambo, after cattle had triggered a mine in the area. The statement said in another incident SWAPO terrorists made an unsuccessful attempt to blow up a power pylon 50 km southeast of Ondangua.

SOUTH AFRICA

Deputy Minister Comments on Equal Education

MB141542 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Text] The deputy minister of cooperation and education, Mr Sam de Beer, says the government has made considerable progress in supplying equal education standards and opportunities to all population groups. Interviewed by the South African Broadcasting Corporation, he said that this progress was reflected in the budget for black education, which had increased from 33 million rand in 1972 to 709 million rand last year.

Mr de Beer pointed out that the new Department of National Education was the central education department, as recommended in the De Lange report. He added that it was the duty of the department to prescribe general education policy and standards for all population groups in the country.

Johannesburg on Comparing RSA With West

MB150817 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Station commentary]

[Text] A recurring theme in criticism of South Africa is that she should not be compared to the rest of Africa. It was a well-worn path that Senator Edward Kennedy was treading when he made the point last week. Indeed, it has been made by numerous visitors, even among those who tend to be well-disposed towards South Africa. Their standpoint is that since this country espouses Western values, she should be judged by them.

That is true as far as it goes, although it is not clear why societies and regimes that scorn those values should not be so judged. But the standpoint is invariably also linked to the implicit accusation that because South Africa has a commitment to Western ideals, any deficiencies giving effect to them in practice are especially reprehensible in her case. It is a false connection.

Certainly most people in this country believe in Western Christian values in respect of human dignity and basic rights, and support steady progress in social and individual relations toward an ever closer correspondence between the ideal and the practice. But such a commitment does not imply that the obstacles and way of achieving the goal automatically disappear, or can be made to disappear overnight. What it does imply is an approach toward removing obstacles and solving problems that results in continual advances toward the goal. It is on the progress that has been made and continues to be made on that course that South Africa should be judged.

The commitment does not change the circumstances with which policies have to deal. It does not alter the fact that South Africa, like many other African countries and more than most, has a complex mix of nations and ethnic groups that often manifest conflicting loyalties and aspirations. Nor does it relieve in any way the intense pressures that exist on the Third World peoples of South Africa and everywhere else in Africa: pressures to adjust to the demands of an urban, technological society that contradict firmly held traditional cultural norms and beliefs, and pressures to equip themselves in an absurdly short period with the knowledge and expertise which the technological society requires. Those pressures and the psychological disruption they generate are as potent a cause of tensions and conflict as ethnicity itself, and in South Africa, precisely because her economic development has been so much more rapid than that of other African countries, the pressures and tensions are so much more acute.

South Africa is an African country facing the same problems of human, economic, and constitutional development as those with which the continent as a whole is confronted. Where she differs from most is in her refusal to resolve national and ethnic conflict by resorting to authoritarian rule by which the rights of all are denied, and in the success with which she is enabling her Third World members to make the vital transition and emerge, incidentally, as the best educated and wealthiest black people in the African continent. Of course, shortcomings still exist, but to single South Africa out for condemnation on those grounds, ignoring how much further she has progressed toward the goals than any other country in comparable circumstances, even maintaining that such a comparison is irrelevant, is evidence of either muddled thinking or mischievous purposes.

Communist Party General Secretary on Situation

AU110912 Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 9 Jan 85 p 6

[Text] In an interview with our Prague correspondent Olaf Standke, the general secretary of the South African Communist Party [SACP], Moses Mabhida, said the firm demonstrations of will and the increased potential of actions by the oppressed majority of people in the racist state of South Africa marked the year 1984. This leading official — whose party has been banned since 1950 and is being subjected to harsh persecution by the apartheid system that has been boycotted worldwide and has been repeatedly labeled as "the disgrace of the century" by the forum of peoples, the United Nations — expressed the conviction that the struggle for his people's freedom will be victorious.

All attempts by the Botha regime to split the apartheid opponents through terror or deceit, to isolate the powerful people's movement of the African National Congress (ANC), and to stop the

alliance among the workers class have failed. Apart from this, the goals of the class struggle have been more closely linked with those of national liberation from racist domination.

In view of these facts, which were especially obvious in 1984, Moses Mabhida stressed: "The white minority regime is intensifying the oppression of the people. Thus, it wants to sow doubt, in one way or another, about the people's liberation movement. However, we have struggled to awaken the spirit of resistance and we continue to struggle to enable the people to carry out such resistance. Therefore, we are allied with the other forces in the liberation movement." International solidarity has a great moral effect in the struggle against the racists. Successes in the struggle against this regime are, last but not least, due to this effect.

A Stern Warning to the Regime of Terror

In 1984 strikes took place on a hitherto unheard of scale, involving essentially more participants compared with 1983. This was proof of the closer alliance of the workers and it was precisely this that was a stern warning for the white regime of terror. It is faced with the fact that more and more Africans view the struggle for their rights as a political issue.

The Bait Was Scattered in Vain

"Because the working people know," Moses Mabhida said, "that extorted concessions from the regime can be withdrawn in another way — for instance through higher rents, prices for staples and train and bus fares — they also strive to achieve political possibilities to withstand tyranny and limitless exploitation."

Therefore, the SACP was always in the front ranks when the forces of opposition had to be mobilized and organized. And therefore it fell under the ban imposed by the dominating power as early as the fifties, as in fact the ANC did later. Today, as before, the SACP and the ANC believe that their main task is to "enable the people to carry out a genuine democratic revolution." In this they proceed, as Moses Mabhida stressed, from the belief that the liberation struggle takes a long time and is complicated.

Proof of the fact that there is a closer link among the ranks of the apartheid opponents is the activity carried out by the umbrella-organization, the United Democratic Front, UDF, that was created in August 1983. It incorporates a total of 700 organizations and, thus, 2 million people.

The increased political and economic movement against apartheid was considered by Moses Mabhida to be a decisive *factor behind the fact* that the regime had to initiate steps of adjustment. However, what the attempts to lure certain groups of people entailed was dramatically proved by the boycott of the sham election for half-castes and Indians announced in the summer of 1984. They turned out to be a fiasco. The temptations of the Pretoria regime were firmly and almost totally rejected.

Workers and farmers, parents and students participated in the largest demonstrations held so far in the so-called townships and the compulsory black communities. In October last year, African ghettos like Sebokeng were hermetically sealed off by thousands of policemen and were brutally combed through by heavily armed people. Thousands of people demonstrated against the laws of terror and attended funerals at which the authorities had tried to do all they could to exclude the public. They sang liberation songs and carried the banner of the ANC and other banned organizations. Thus, they demonstrated that they fear nothing.

People Want To Be Truly Free

Moses Mabhida further said that both the aggression and the destabilizing policy against neighboring states, together with force and terror, are part and parcel of the domination by the white minority regime in South Africa over the black majority of 23 million. In the second half of 1984 alone, more than 150 people were murdered and more than 400 were injured by the Army and police. The number of arbitrary arrests amounts to thousands. Constant acts of aggression take place against the other countries in southern Africa. Namibia continues to be occupied illegally. Apart from this, "through cooperation with Israel," South African received "certain nuclear technological know-how."

In view of all this, the party will do all it can to close the ranks of the apartheid opponents. The sixth SACP party congress, which took place a short time ago, discussed this task especially. It decided on steps to continue to strengthen the party's ideological and organizational framework in order to enable it to make a greater contribution to the victory of the national democratic revolution in South Africa. The party congress also aimed at strengthening the pressure on the criminal racist regime, because "people do not want bread crumbs, they want their rights. They want to be truly free," the SACP general secretary stressed in conclusion.

Policeman, 3 Blacks Killed in ANC Gunbattle

MB141208 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 14 Jan 85

[Text] Police headquarters in Pretoria has announced the death of a member of the security police at Vryheid, Lieutenant Jan Janse, who was killed in a gun battle with ANC terrorists this morning. Lt Janse leaves his wife and four children. Three unknown black men were also killed in the incident.

The incident occurred early this morning at a house in the Nongoma area of northern Natal after police were tipped off about the presence of terrorists in the house. A number of AK-47 rifles and quantities of ammunition were seized. The search for the terrorists continues.

Briefs

Deputy Law Minister Appointed — The deputy minister of defense, Mr Adrian Vlok, has been appointed deputy minister of law and order as well with effect from today. An announcement to this effect has been made by the Office of the State President in Cape Town. Up until Mr Vlok's new appointment, there was no deputy minister of law and order. [Text] [*Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 14 Jan 85 MB*]

SWAZILAND

Mnisi on Dumisa Party, Sanctions Against RSA

MB121052 Mbabane THE OBSERVER in English 12 Jan 85 pp 1,3

[Text] A member of the Royal Family, Prince Dumisa's formation of an opposition party "does not bother the leadership of this country at all," said the minister for foreign affairs, Mr Mhambi Mnisi yesterday.

He was being asked what the reaction of the leadership was following reports from the United Kingdom that Prince Dumisa has formed a party called the Swaziland Liberation Movement, which has listed among its objectives, to stop members of the royal family from being abused by a section of the country's leadership.

"We are not worried about Dumisa's party. If a man is discontent and makes a lot of noise, especially as he is so far away, we are not bothered at all," the minister said.

Speaking during a press conference at his office, Mr Mnisi said the leadership will never recognise any political party in Swaziland because of the system of parliament.

When the king repealled the constitution in 1973, the people of Swaziland told him they did not want any political parties around, Mr Mnisi said.

"So you can see, people don't want political parties here," Mr Mnisi said.

He said in Swaziland there is a queen regent who is the leader of the people and that Swazis are still waiting for Crown Prince Makhosetive to become of age and take over kingship.

"Of course there are some people with evil hearts ready to start evil action but if we find them, we are going to deal with them accordingly," Mr Mnisi said.

Mr Mnisi said Swaziland does not support Senator Edward Kennedy's policy of disinvestment in South Africa as it would have a hard-hitting effect on the Kingdom because of our geographical positioning.

"If there are any economic sanctions against South Africa, then that will be the end of Swaziland. These are facts and realities which no-one can run away from," noted the minister.

He rebuffed speculation that Swaziland was bullied into signing a security arrangement with South Africa, which is said to be similar to the Nkomati Accord.

"Swaziland, as a sovereign state, has the right to do what she feels like besides, South Africa cannot treat us like little boys as we need South Africa and South Africa needs us."

He said Swaziland was prepared to let any member of the African National Congress (ANC) or the Pan African Congress (PAC) stay in the Kingdom as genuine refugees and that the country will not allow its territory to be used as a spring-board to attack a neighbouring state.

He said this was in accordance with the policies of the late king who preached peace and security.

Swaziland does not want to be seen to be at loggerheads with the ANC but their behaviour in the past few weeks have been disappointing.

He said the deputy commissioner of police, Mr Edgar Hillary, and former commissioner, Mr Titus Msibi, who are being held by police, are in custody for political reasons and that the Elders of the Nation stand unruffled by a declaration of the chief justice, Mr Denzril Will, against indefinite detention of people.

"These people are there for political reasons and their case will be settled by the Elders."

University Closed, Students Told To Reapply

MB111732 Mbabane Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 11 Jan 85

[Text] The University of Swaziland was closed today, just 4 days after students at both Kwaluseni and Luyengo University campuses resumed classes following Christmas holidays. In a statement directed to students at the university, the vice chancellor for the University of Swaziland, Professor Guma, said the University Council had received the report of Justice Hassanali Commission of Enquiry. In order to implement its findings, he said the council then decided to close the university from today for the rest of January till a date which would be made known to individual students through letter correspondence. The memorandum ordered all students, excluding those on science preentry course, to leave the campuses by the afternoon.

On leaving the university premises, the students were told to take home with them all personal belongings and return all university property in their possession. The statement, which was pinned at the notice board at 0900, said students who wish to return to the university must apply for readmission during the time the university is closed. No student should return to the university unless he has received a letter of readmission from the university. Till 1100 students were seen quietly quitting the university campuses.

Speaking during a brief press conference this morning, Professor Guma said administration, library, and office work will continue as normal. Asked why was the university allowed to open on Monday only to be closed within 5 days, Professor Guma said the

University Council could not meet during vacation, as people concerned had gone for holidays. Commenting on the closure itself, Professor Guma said it could adversely affect the students as a great deal of time had been lost.

'ANC Operative' Sentenced for Arms Possession

MB150858 Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 15 Jan 85 p 1

[Excerpt] A well known ANC operative, Phillip Eric Zuma, was yesterday sentenced to seven years' imprisonment or e3,000 fine for unlawful possession of arms.

Mbabane Senior Magistrate James Okaya found Zuma guilty of three counts of unlawful possession of firearms.

He was arrested in a crowded night club in Mbabane in possession of a Russian made automatic pistol on December 15 last year. He also had 16 rounds of ammunition and two revolver magazines.

Zuma's name came into the limelight when members of an ANC rescue team stormed the police station in Manzini demanding his release. An abortive attempt to rescue him from the Central Prison was also attempted by the team, which also rescued three ANC men from custody in Mbabane earlier this month.

ZIMBABWE

HERALD Cites Foreign Funding for Election

MB111540 Harare THE HERALD in English 5 Jan 85 p 2

[Editorial: "Mud-Slinging Out"]

[Text] There is a wealth of intelligence confirming that a number of minority parties have been seeking foreign funding of their election campaigns.

Confirmed reports abound of a number of politicians making beelines to Europe and the United States where rightwing organisations have money to waste in fighting the socialist enemy.

Zaire has played a pivotal role in the connection. Some known political activitists have been making trips to that country to attend "religious" meetings of a church known to be used by one minority party.

While there is nothing illegal about raising funds from outside sources, the question of morality, however, arises. By paying the piper, are these bankrollers not reserving their right of calling the tune?

That this fund raising is being done under a blanket of secrecy, with third parties being used and the name of the church occasionally invoked, rightly makes the Government suspicious.

But it would be the height of folly to believe that money might influence our voting. South African money failed to do that in 1980 when we were so vulnerable.

One expects that only issues will dominate Campaign '85. Not mud-slinging tirades against each other, nor inciting speeches that can only lead to violence.

Yet there are national achievements that, beyond question, cannot be denigrated. Independence itself and free health care and education are bold achievements every Zimbabwean worth his salt should be proud of.

We expect a free and fair election, but it can only be so if the contesting parties play their role of simply putting forward their policies and programmes to the electorate and ask for their votes.

Any party that causes violence should expect nothing less than total exclusion from the election.

ZANU-PF Supporters Demonstrate Against Nkomo

MB121158 Harare Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 12 Jan 85

[Text] Nearly 30,000 ZANU-PF supporters spent 3 hours surrounding the Masvingo Police headquarters demanding for the handover of the ZAPU leader, Dr Joshua Nomo. The crowd, many of whom shed tears, shouted that Dr Nkomo had provoked them by not heeding their message conveyed in a morning demonstration that they did not wat to see the father of dissidents in Masvingo.

The ZANU-PF provincial chairman for Masvingo, Comrade Eddison Zvobgo, arrived later in the evening and informed the ZANU-PF supporters that he was going to tell the ZAPU leader to leave the provincial capital for Bulawayo. He said the demonstrations had proved to the ZAPU leader that people in Masvingo had rejected him.

Radio Truth Comments on Sithole Allegations

MB111042 (Clandestine) Radio Truth in English to Zimbabwe 0430 GMT 11 Jan 85

[Station commentary]

[Text] We mentioned on several occasions in the past that ZANU-PF is hell-bent on a campaign to discredit the leaders of all opposition parties. Joshua Nkomo and ZAPU have had more than their fair share of smear tactics, and Bishop Muzorewa has been the victim of some trumped up charges. Ian Smith and his Conservative Alliance are regularly at the receiving end of some form of abuse. Now it is the turn of Ndabaningi Sithole. He has been accused of asking the United States Government for arms to assist in the overthrow of the ZANU-PF regime.

The allegation was attributed to Emmerson Munangagwa, who is reported to have said that American officials had given him letters writen by Mr Sithole outlining how the plot was to be accomplished. In these letters he was supposed to have made a request for sophisticated weapons to be used in the planned revolt. Officials at the U.S. Embassy in Harare said they know nothing of the alleged plot or the letters.

The idea of Ndabaningi Sithole organizing a coup attempt from exile in London sounds farcical to say the least. It would seem to us that ZANU-PF is afraid of Mr Sithole returning to Zimbabwe and participating in the campaign for the general election. Up to now, on their own admission, the regime had no basis to act against him if he came home, so they had to create an excuse to detain him on his return in exactly the same way as they dealt with Abel Muzorewa. Hence the rumor is floated that Sithole is planning an armed revolt.

Radio Truth believes that ZANU-PF is well aware of its growing unpopularity with the electorate. They will stop at nothing to crush the opposition and to retain power. The Sithole affair is the latest example of their ruthless tactics, but we rely on the electorate to see through these ugly maneuvers and to vote for the party of their choice without fear.

FINANCIAL GAZETTE on Results of Socialist Economy

MB111535 Harare THE FINANCIAL GAZETTE in English 4 Jan 85 p 4

[Editorial: "What Goals Does the Prime Minister Have in Mind?"]

[Text] The Prime Minister announced a basketful of what were, frankly, mostly ZANU [PF] new year resolutions on December 31.

As expected, the expansion of socialism and the power of his party were the principal undertakings for the year ahead, but the private sector as not omitted either. Mr Mugabe said that the private sector must be more purposefully coordinated and geared to achieving goals and targets defined by the state.

What he meant is anyone's guess since he did not expand on the point, but his remark must have made businessmen pause and wonder what lies ahead. It was an unfortunate point to make, for business confidence and performance has been improving lately because the government has not introduced any drastic measures nor made unsettling statements.

The preoccupation of socialists with complete control of mind and materials is well known, and so are the inevitable results. It is to be regretted that our leaders are not watching what is happening in the economies which support the private sector, or more telling, in those socialist countries which are making substantial changes. China, a firm supporter and friend of Zimbabwe, is a dramatic case in point. The freeing of the peasant from the yoke of socialist bureaucratic control has revolutionised agriculture to such an extent that China is now a food exporting country. The leaders have set a target for the expansion of China's economy fourfold by the end of the century — not by following Marxist shibboleths but by the introduction of private sector, or to be more plain, capitalist incentives.

The problem with total commitment to any religious or political belief is that it blinds one to the virtues of any other system. Everything is black or white, good or evil. China, and some of the eastern bloc countries such as Hungary, have realised that the doctrines of Marx and Lenin are a combination of an outdated perspective and ruthless desire to maintain power at any price. As in any system there is something of value, but an eclectic approach is not only more suitable, it is more successful.

Zimbabwe's private sector has performed magnificently under very difficult conditions over the past year. It has shown that it can cope with almost any situation, given time and reasonable stability. It is to be hoped that the Prime Minister's new year resolution does not presage a period of "direction" that will destroy the hard-won gains of the past six months.

'Arafat Message Praises Solidarity With PLO

MB111904 Harare Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 11 Jan 85

[Text] The leader of the PLO, Comrade Yasir 'Arafat, has praised Zimbabwe for its solidarity with and support for the Palestinians in their struggle for self-determination. The praise was contained in a message from Comrade 'Arafat to the deputy prime minister, Comrade Simon Muzenda, who sent a message of solidarity and congratulations to the PLO on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the launching of the PLO.

The PLO leader expressed his organization's unwavering support for the struggling people of Namibia and South Africa. He criticized the Pretoria regime for perpetuating its illegal occupation of Namibia [words indistinct].